FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF UNMC

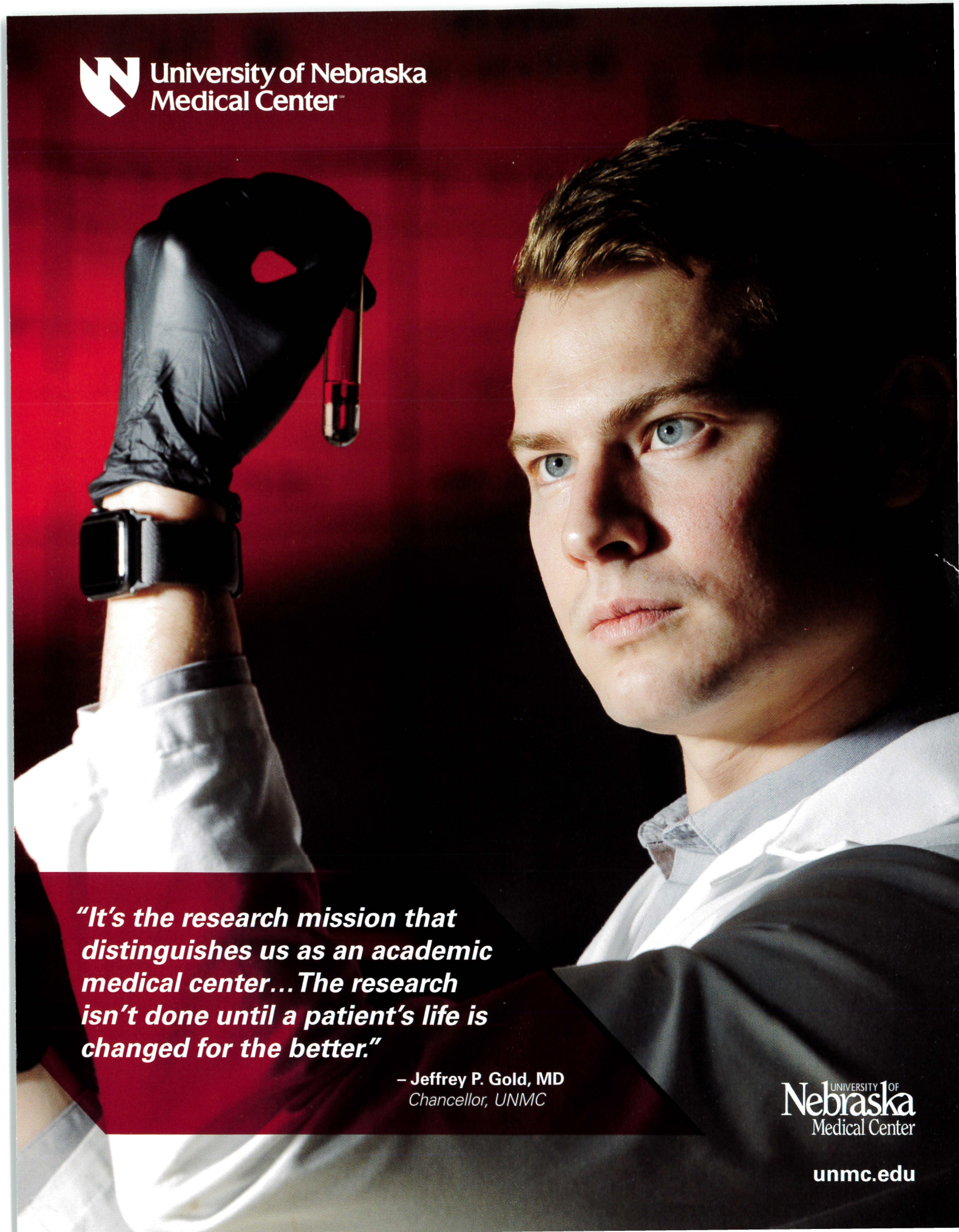
Connect

ALSO INSIDE
A UNMC physician-scientist's quest to cure pancreatic cancer.

Behind the lens: A photographer's view.

University of Nebraska Medical Center

SPRING 2023
UNMC.EDU


University of Nebraska Medical Center
"It's the research mission that distinguishes us as an academic medical center...The research isn't done until a patient's life is changed for the better."
– Jeffrey P. Gold, MD
Chancellor, UNMC
University of Nebraska Medical Center
unmc.edu

Building a stronger university, state, nation...*Only in Nebraska*

Jeffrey P. Gold, MD
UNMC Chancellor

Welcome to our spring 2023 edition of UNMC Connect magazine. One of my perks as chancellor is a preview of each issue, and I can't wait to tell you about some of the stories you are about to read. They highlight select points of pride from the past year and are sure to leave you feeling even more delighted and proud about your CONNECTion with UNMC.

But first, a few words on *Only in Nebraska: A Campaign for Our University's Future.*

The University of Nebraska is embarking on an ambitious, critically important – and achievable – campaign to encourage at least 150,000 benefactors to give $3 billion to support the University of Nebraska System. I'm proud to say we're on our way. Having served as UNMC chancellor the past nine years, I know the value of the NU system across this state and, specifically, the role played by the state's only public academic health science center.

This year, for the first time, the capital campaign also includes our primary clinical partner, Nebraska Medicine. Together, we aim to raise $1 billion of the campaign's $3 billion goal.

Funds raised will focus on student access and success; enhancing faculty, academic and clinical excellence; and transformational research and innovation. We hope you will join us, at whatever level of support feels right for you. It does not take writing big checks to become a "benefactor" — merely the willingness to become a part of something greater than oneself. Your participation IS our goal!

Thank you for your generosity.

Now, on to the magazine! In this issue you will find:

- A profile on the work of Sunil Hingorani, MD, PhD, Nancy Armitage Pancreas Cancer Presidential Chair, and director of the Pancreatic Cancer Center of Excellence. This center of excellence is among our points of emphasis in the *Only in Nebraska* campaign ...
- "Behind the Lens": We are fortunate to have photographer Kent Sievers on our strategic communications team; Kent shows us a few of his favorite UNMC moments ...
- A celebration of the trailblazing career of the late Reba Benschoter, PhD, whose work, with others, makes UNMC the birthplace of telemedicine ...
- Early highlights of investments made through *Only in Nebraska: A Campaign for Our University's Future,* including a scholarship endowed by retiring UNMC College of Nursing Dean Juliann Sebastian, PhD, and a transformative gift to the UNMC College of Pharmacy from late industry titan and alum Joe Williams, PharmD ...
- A Q&A with Vicki Hamm, a 47-year GME (graduate medical education) employee.

I loved each of these stories, and hope you will, too. Until next time, take care of yourself and each other.

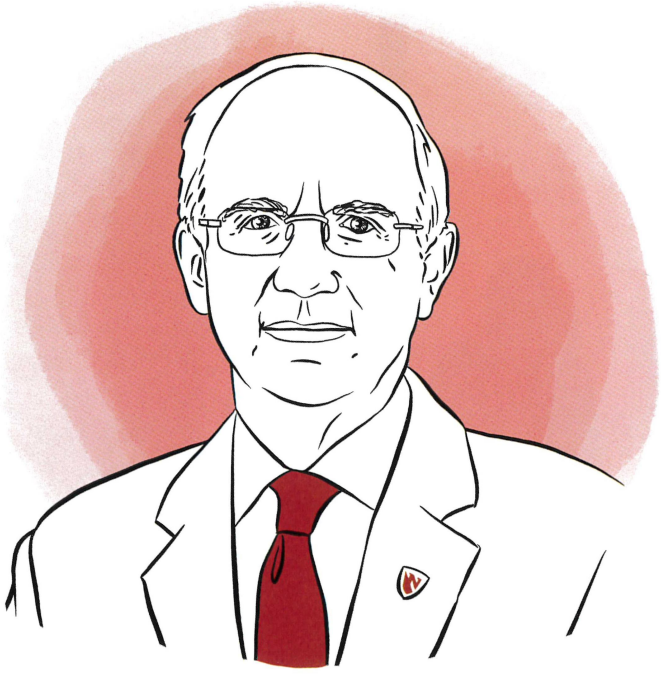


ILLUSTRATION BY ANANDA WALDEN

Listen to the *"Health Care Heart to Heart"* podcast with Dr. Gold, available on major streaming platforms.

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LEADING THE WAY
Through every season, UNMC trains more health professionals than any other institution in Nebraska.

UNMC Connect is published annually by Strategic Communications and Alumni Relations at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the University of Nebraska Foundation. See past issues at unmc.edu, News and Events. Permission is granted to reprint any written materials herein, provided proper credit is given. Direct requests to Today@unmc.edu.

UNMC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC-NCA) and enjoys full accreditation of all its professional academic programs.

We are Nebraska Medicine and UNMC. Our mission is to lead the world in transforming lives to create a healthy future for all individuals and communities through premier educational programs, innovative research and extraordinary patient care.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center does not discriminate in its academic, employment or admissions programs, and abides by all federal regulations pertaining to same.

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PHOTO BY KENT SIEVERS

"There are two kinds of horses – show horses and work horses. "I have a passion for anonymity. I prefer to be a work horse ... behind the scenes."

Bob Bartee, on 42 years as vice chancellor for external relations. As right-hand man to six UNMC chancellors, his fingerprints are on most of UNMC's major successes over the past four decades.

"As scientists and researchers, we're always on the frontier; creativity comes from people who have a frontier attitude."

Raymond Bergan, MD, deputy director, Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, on the importance of philanthropic support for cancer research.

At one time or another, we will all require the astute care skills of a nurse.

Heidi Keeler, PhD, on a nearly $4 million Health Resources and Services Administration grant given to the UNMC College of Medicine to help grow and maintain a prepared nursing workforce.

"The goal is to cure pancreas cancer and to do so in my lifetime."

Sunil Hingorani, MD, PhD, director of the UNMC Pancreatic Cancer Center of Excellence and the pancreas cancer program at Nebraska Medicine

"Vaccines save lives."

Ally Dering-Anderson, PharmD, clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, on the UNMC College of Pharmacy's award-winning Operation Immunization, which has administered 15,000 influenza vaccines since the program launched in 2017.

"Adding a second health science focused building at UNK will transform lives for generations."

UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, MD, on phase II of a planned UNK-UNMC Rural Health Education Building.

"What's EMET?"

Frequently asked of fourth-year med students during residency interviews.

Hint: It's UNMC's Enhanced Medical Education Track, which enables students to study a field of medicine in-depth while also completing their required medical school curriculum.

"When I started medical school, I never imagined I would end up in the specialty of obstetrics and gynecology... I am so glad I get to pursue this career here at UNMC!"

Tope Banwo, OB/GYN resident physician, Class of 2022, #humansofunmc

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Building tomorrow, today. *Only in Nebraska.*

At the University of Nebraska Medical Center, we dream big, and roll up our sleeves to transform lives each day. It's part of our DNA and the mission-critical work we do to help drive our state's economy, health and overall quality of life.

Join us as we launch *Only in Nebraska: A Campaign for Our University's Future* to raise $1 billion to support UNMC and Nebraska Medicine and build the future we need, right here in Nebraska.

Top 5 campaign priorities

1. Scholarships and Graduate Student Support

Addressing the workforce shortage and critical health care needs of Nebraska requires aggressive recruitment and support of students. Competitive scholarships, fellowships and pipeline programs such as the Rural Health Initiatives are key to recruiting and retaining top undergraduate and graduate students to fill health care roles and conduct research to improve and save lives.

2. Endowed Faculty Support: Chairs and Professorships

Faculty members play a critical role in student success by advancing research and inspiring innovation. Funding for endowed chairs, professorships and faculty recruitment and retention will elevate the excellence of UNMC.

3. Transformative Research, Discovery and Innovation

Centers of Excellence will build on the strengths of Nebraska Medicine and UNMC in cancer, immunotherapies, neurodegenerative diseases, cardiovascular disease, women's health research, behavioral health, chronic care management, cancer prevention, health equity and other areas of importance to Nebraskans.

4. Project NExT (Nebraska Transformational Project)

UNMC and Nebraska Medicine are poised to transform education and patient care. Project NExT will educate the next generation of health care workers and those responding to infectious disease, advance research and provide patients with novel, state-of-the-art care.

5. Health Science Education Expansion Facility

UNMC must continue to expand its programs to meet the growing need for health care workers. The health science education facility will provide a home for new and expanding programs, such as those in the College of Allied Health Professions and in the College of Dentistry's residency and training programs.

CONNECT

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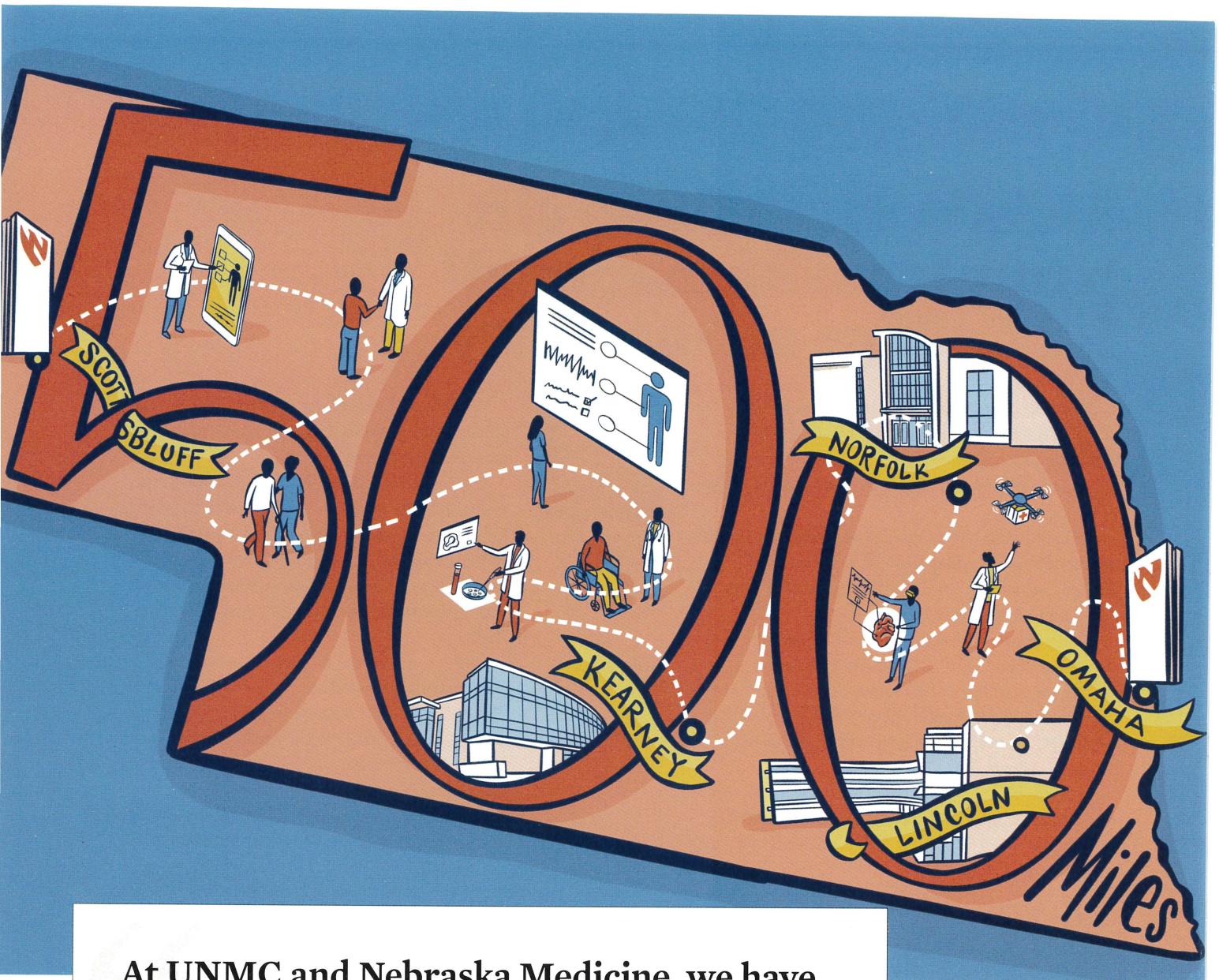


At UNMC and Nebraska Medicine, we have the enormous responsibility to educate the next generation of health care professionals and scientists and the monumental privilege to provide lifesaving research and to provide care and caring for Nebraskans as well as those living around the world. We can start today to build the future our world needs right now. It's possible, and it's all happening right here."

Jeffrey P. Gold, MD, chancellor, UNMC; board chair, Nebraska Medicine

ILLUSTRATION BY ANANDA WALDEN

UNMC/NEBRASKA MEDICINE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Karen and Jim Linder, *chairs*

- Mary and Tom Henning
- Anne M. Hubbard, MD
- Diny and Jim Landen
- Gerry and Bruce Lauritzen
- Jay Noddle
- Polina and Bob Schlott

Alum's $20 million gift 'truly transformational' for College of Pharmacy

Joe Williams' first gift to the University of Nebraska was $10 in 1958. He was eight years out of school.

His final gift was $20 million to the UNMC College of Pharmacy.

Williams, who had an enormous impact on UNMC and its pharmacy college, died March 20, 2021, and was buried with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. He was 94.

His estate gift allows the UNMC College of Pharmacy to endow its deanship and a student scholarship and provide matching dollars to spur even more giving. It also includes funds to further develop the UNMC Center for Drug Discovery and bring strategic initiatives to life.

"It allows the college to truly change its trajectory," said UNMC College of Pharmacy Dean Keith Olsen, PharmD.

Joe Williams, PharmD

Williams was one of the college's greatest success stories. And, with his wife, Millie, one of its most steadfast supporters.

He worked in his grandfather's Pawnee City, Nebraska, pharmacy as a kid, served in the Navy in World War II and graduated from Nebraska in 1950 with a pharmacy degree. He started as a traveling salesman and worked his way up to president of pharmaceutical giants Parke-Davis and Warner-Lambert.

Williams was a mover and shaker who shook hands with presidents, but always strove to give back. He chaired the United Negro College Fund and was a driving force behind the establishment of Liberty Science Center in New Jersey, Warner-Lambert's corporate home.

"I can't reiterate enough...," Dr. Olsen said, "this gift is truly transformational to the college."

HONORING A LEGEND The Joseph D. & Millie E. Williams Science Hall, home to the College of Pharmacy.

PHOTO BY KENT SIEVERS

THE IMPACT, AT A GLANCE

Joe Williams' $20 million gift to the UNMC College of Pharmacy

→ **$7.5 million** to establish the Joseph D. and Millie E. Williams Pharmacy Endowment Fund, which will be invested permanently and provide more than $300,000 annually in distributions that can be strategically invested in the College of Pharmacy with initial plans to augment scholarships for College of Pharmacy students.

→ **$5 million** to establish the Joseph D. and Millie E. Williams Endowment Matching Fund, to match gift commitments from future donors establishing new endowments that support students, faculty and programs, allowing the college to leverage the Williams investment to inspire future support.

→ **$5 million** to establish the Joseph D. Williams Endowed Deanship Fund — the first-ever endowed deanship fund for UNMC — that will be invested permanently and provide the College of Pharmacy dean with more than $200,000 in annual distributions to strategically invest at his or her discretion.

→ **$2.5 million** to help with expenses for the construction and ongoing maintenance of the $35 million Center for Drug Discovery and Lozier Center for Pharmacy Sciences and Education that opened in 2016 as the new home of the UNMC College of Pharmacy.

DESIGNATION

Dr. Khan, UNMC reappointed to global outbreak committee

In 2022, Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH, dean of the UNMC College of Public Health, and UNMC were reappointed to the World Health Organization's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) Steering Committee.

GOARN is a WHO network of more than 250 technical institutions and networks globally that responds to acute public health events with the deployment of staff and resources to affected countries. UNMC was invited to become a member of the GOARN steering committee in 2017.

With the committee reappointment, UNMC joins the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as the only U.S. entities in the GOARN steering group.

Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH

CONTRACT RENEWAL

UNMC–military partnership trains physician assistants

A partnership between UNMC's College of Allied Health Professions and the U.S. military to provide uniformed services with competent, compassionate physician assistants, has been renewed through 2027.

UNMC has been the sole holder of the Interservice Physician Assistant Program contract – notably UNMC's longest-running continual federal contract – since the program's establishment in 1996.

IPAP graduates hold UNMC degrees and are officially and proudly counted as UNMC alumni. The med center has conferred nearly 5,800 degrees upon its military physician assistant graduates from the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and National Guard.

We are immensely proud to serve those who serve our country. The fact that every military-educated physician assistant holds a degree from UNMC is an amazing honor and outcome."

Kyle Meyer, PhD, dean, UNMC College of Allied Health Professions

INSIGHTS

Podcast to highlight health sciences

UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, MD, is going behind the mic for a new podcast that provides insights into medical and scientific issues of the day.

"Health Care Heart to Heart with Dr. Jeff Gold" will dive into topics ranging from behavioral health to well-being to infectious diseases, and more.

Dr. Gold and his guests will share information, explore health care challenges and opportunities, and leave listeners thinking about how they, too, can make a difference.

"Health Care Heart to Heart" is available on major streaming platforms.

WORKFORCE

Grant will aid UNMC in building community health workforce

A nearly $3 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration will allow the UNMC College of Public Health to recruit 240 community health workers over the next three years to take part in a newly developed training and certification program led by UNMC.

Dejun Su, PhD, associate professor at the UNMC Department of Health Promotion, led the effort to secure the federal grant to substantially expand the community health workforce in Nebraska.

Dejun Su, PhD

"Community health workers are uniquely positioned to help us address social determinants of health and bridge the gap between the health care system and underserved communities," Dr. Su said.

UNMC has partnered with a number of health care and community organizations across the state in this project, including Nebraska Medicine, CHI Health, Methodist Health System, Nebraska Health Network, OneWorld Community Health Centers, Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition, Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System, Partnership for a Healthy Nebraska, Nebraska Enhanced Services Pharmacies and others.

Enrolled trainees go through 10 weeks of didactic learning on core competencies, followed by individualized, on-the-job training for eight months.

Nearly 200 applied for the first 80-member cohort that began the program in January.

WORKFORCE

BHECN awards millions to boost Nebraska's behavioral health workforce development

Behavioral health access is a story of labor shortages.

Rural areas, in particular, are experiencing a shortage of behavioral health care workers. This leaves families struggling to find help in times of mental health and substance abuse crises. Eighty-eight of Nebraska's 93 counties are considered to have a shortage of behavioral health professionals. Twenty-nine counties don't have any behavioral health professionals at all.

"There's a shortage even in the best of areas," said Marley Doyle, MD, director of the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska, which serves as the state's behavioral health workforce development center housed at UNMC. "And there's an extreme shortage in areas that are geographically more remote from the eastern side of Nebraska."

BHECN's purpose is to recruit, retain and expand the competency of the state's behavioral health workforce. In 2022, the Nebraska Legislature allocated $25.5 million in American Recovery Plan Act funding to BHECN to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the shortage of behavioral health professionals in our state. In turn, BHECN is awarding the funding through a competitive process.

Marley Doyle, MD

BHECN awarded its first round of funding in early 2023 — nearly $20 million in ARPA funds to 83 Nebraska projects to help develop, recruit and retain Nebraska's behavioral health workforce. Of the 83 projects selected, 40 (48%) were in Nebraska's metropolitan areas and 43 (52%) were in rural areas.

At press time, BHECN was accepting proposals for a second round of funding. All Nebraska organizations/providers are eligible to apply, and applicants can request funding for up to three years. ARPA funding expires Dec. 31, 2025.

Q & A

For nearly five decades, **Vicki Hamm** has been the face of graduate medical education at UNMC.

As the designated institutional administrator, Hamm has been the go-to person for more than 3,000 house officers who have made UNMC their home for residency and fellowship training.

Q: How did you get involved in graduate medical education?
A: I started at UNMC in 1975 as a residency coordinator in the department of internal medicine. Shortly after, Bob Wigton, MD, was named associate dean for graduate medical education and asked me to join him in that office.

Q: You've said working in graduate medical education has been the love of your life. How so?
A: I can honestly say there has never been a day in 47 years when I didn't want to come to work. For me, working in GME has been a very happy marriage!

Q: What message(s) do you give new house officers?
A: Don't become frustrated by the additional administrative burden that all physicians must face these days. And always take time to enjoy the ride called residency or fellowship — many will feel like it's the worst time of their life, but it almost always turns out to be one of the most gratifying.

Q: What have you observed about our physicians-in-training over the decades?
A: The most dramatic change is the duty hours. I can remember house officers working 100-120 hours a week in many specialties. They may have hated it, but they did it. Today, house officers are limited in their duty hours.

Q: What have they taught you?
A: That helping them in even the smallest way is much appreciated. They are a group of highly professional and smart people, and it has been an honor to serve them.

Q: Do they still keep in touch with you?
A: I'm proud to say that I still maintain strong friendships with many past house officers. Some have even become my best friends.

Q: Looking ahead, what are the challenges for graduate medical education?
A: Maintaining that balance between service and education for house officers. There is a fine line between hiring "help" to complete patient care duties and educating house officers to practice competently and independently. This requires dedicated faculty who are given protected time to teach and supervise.

Q: You've been the lifeblood of UNMC Graduate Medical Education. How do you most want to be remembered?
A: Recently a former resident from the '80s called and couldn't believe I was still at UNMC. He said, "You have really helped a lot of people." Those few words sum it up.

Q: What will you remember most about your time at UNMC?
A: The growth of the physical plant on campus and working with the most amazing program directors and program coordinators. And, last but not least, an incredible GME office staff, and three wonderful bosses: Drs. Robert Wigton, Mike Wadman and Chandra Are.

Q: With retirement, what's next?
A: I have moved to California to be closer to my family.

View a photo album from the retirement celebration at ***https://bit.ly/41A3fCk***.

Reba Benschoter, PhD, in the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute Studio, circa 1967.

PHOTO COURTESY LEON S. MCGOOGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY

Dr. Benschoter blazed the trail in telehealth, telemedicine

by Karen Burbach

When Reba Benschoter, PhD, moved to Omaha, she scanned the yellow pages and called the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute in search of a job. The rest, they say, is history.

An audiovisual specialist, Dr. Benschoter went on to become a national pioneer in the development of telemedicine and distance learning.

"Dr. Reba Benschoter was a trailblazer," said UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, MD. "She was among those who helped make our 500-mile campus more than an ideal, but a reality."

Dr. Benschoter came to UNMC in 1957, joining the college of medicine's Nebraska Psychiatric Institute (now the site of the Durham Research Center towers), where she began developing television and other audio-visual communication services for the department of psychiatry.

In 1964, she was director of a National Institute of Mental Health grant that led to what is believed to be the nation's first two-way closed-circuit telemedicine system. In 1966, she gave a national presentation before the New York Academy of Sciences on the use of "interactive television" to teach remote students and care for mental-health patients 112 miles away at the Norfolk State Hospital. It was a novel method, with groundbreaking outcomes.

She later would recall that "Dec. 2, 1964, marked the true beginning of telemedicine in the U.S."

Dr. Benschoter was hired by Cecil Wittson, MD, a driver and champion of what would later be called telemedicine and distance learning at UNMC. As chair of psychiatry, Dr. Wittson, who later became College of Medicine dean and UNMC's first chancellor, charged Dr. Benschoter with leading the task, along with engineer Van Johnson.

"It didn't seem so stupendous at the time," Dr. Benschoter said in a 2020 interview. "As I look back, I know that I was extremely fortunate to find the job I did at a time that technology was unfolding, literally. New things were being invented, put on the market, put into use almost on a daily — or monthly — basis."

That innovation included the use of videotape in psychiatry and in the education of students. "I think the second video tape recorder sold in Nebraska was sold to Dr. Wittson at Nebraska Psychiatric Institute, because he saw the potential for that particular medium in psychiatric education and mental health treatment."

In 1970, the university created Biomedical Communications at UNMC, with Dr. Benschoter serving as director until her retirement in 2000. She continued to lead the growth of distance learning and telehealth at UNMC through the 1970s, '80s and '90s, in partnership with Nebraska Educational Television, the Veterans Administration and others. While at UNMC, she also led the then-School of Allied Health Professions from 1985-95 as its associate dean within the UNMC College of Medicine.

Professor emeritus Dr. Benschoter died Jan. 1, 2023. She was 92.

Read the 2017 National Endowment for the Humanities article featuring Dr. Benschoter at ***https://bit.ly/3lJ92gk***.

UNMC fast facts

6,198

Employed by UNMC as of February 2023.

6

Number of UNMC colleges (Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health).

4,406

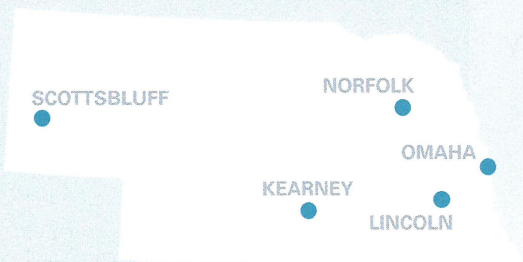
Students enrolled for the 2022-23 school year.

$251.9 MILLION

UNMC's record sponsored awards (fiscal year 2022). Total research-only sponsored awards for FY22, **$183 million**.

8,451

Skaters using UNMC's outdoor ice rink between Dec. 3, 2022, and Feb. 5, 2023, setting a new record for the venue, which is open to the public.



500 MILES

UNMC's reach with campuses in Scottsbluff, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk and Omaha.

$875 MILLION

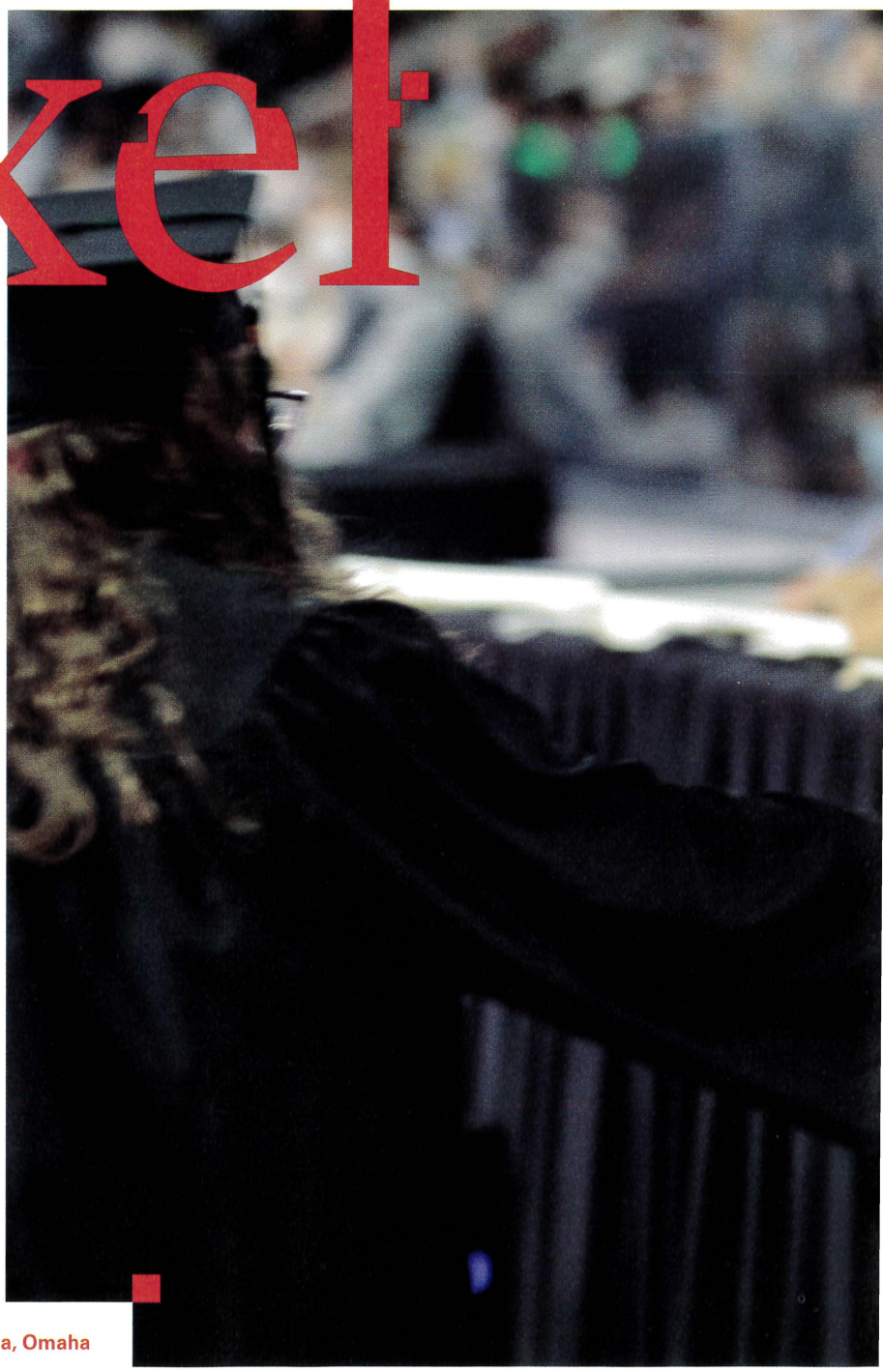
UNMC's operating budget for 2022-23.
(19% STATE-SUPPORTED)

1881

Year UNMC was founded (after being chartered in 1869). Originally Omaha Medical College, it became affiliated with the University of Nebraska in 1902.

Pixel

IN PHOTOGRAPHY, THOUSANDS OF PIXELS COME TOGETHER TO MAKE AN IMAGE. AT UNMC, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE UNITE TO IMPROVE LIVES. HERE, OUR CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER CAPTURES THE DAY-TO-DAY MAGIC OF UNMC.



Baxter Arena, Omaha

Celebrating milestones.

For generations, UNMC has trained the state's doctors, nurses, pharmacists and more—and inspired young minds to dream big.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **Kent Sievers**

Perfect

THE 700-POUND **"Healing"** SCULPTURE SYMBOLIZES THE VITAL WORK OF UNMC IN CREATING A HEALTHIER FUTURE.

Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education

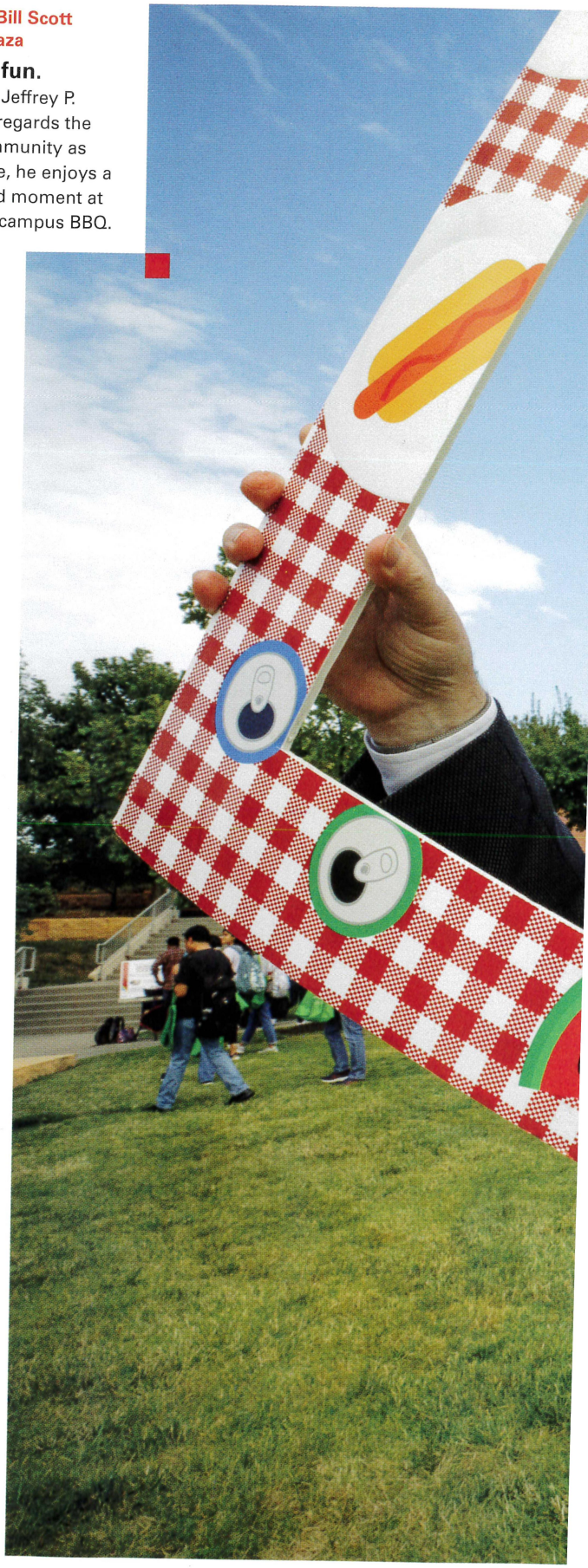
'Healing' moments. Nursing students relax by the iconic campus landmark that's symbolic of health care past, present and future.

Central Utilities Plant

Behind the scenes.
The med center facilities team plays a critical role in UNMC's success. Here, utility operator apprentice Dillon Haney cleans the inside of a chiller.

Ruth & Bill Scott Student Plaza

Time for fun.
Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, MD, regards the UNMC community as family. Here, he enjoys a lighthearted moment at the annual campus BBQ.



Operating room

Serious medicine.
UNMC's primary clinical partner, Nebraska Medicine, provides extraordinary care 24/7.

ARY OF MEDICINE

Sorrell Center

Well-rounded education.

The medical curriculum at UNMC is divided into three phases: foundations of medicine, clinical applications and career preparation.

Slowdown, Omaha, Nebraska

Howard on Howard Street.

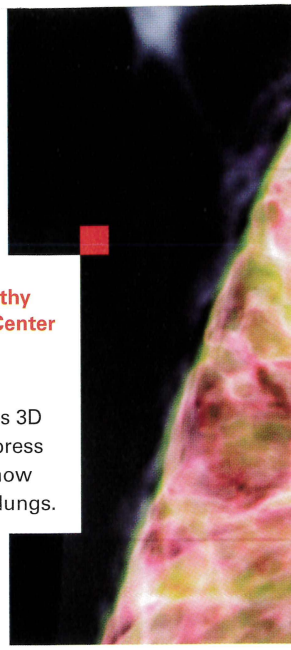
UNMC faculty, including Howard Gendelman, MD, share their expertise at Science Cafes, the Nebraska Science Festival and other community events.

RiteCare Clinic, Hastings, Nebraska

Finding her voice.

Sydney Norton, a Munroe-Meyer Institute speech-language pathologist, watches Hannah Buntin play with a spinning toy after intense therapy for apraxia and partial hearing loss.

Scan the QR code to see more.



Dr. Edwin G. & Dorothy Balbach Davis Global Center

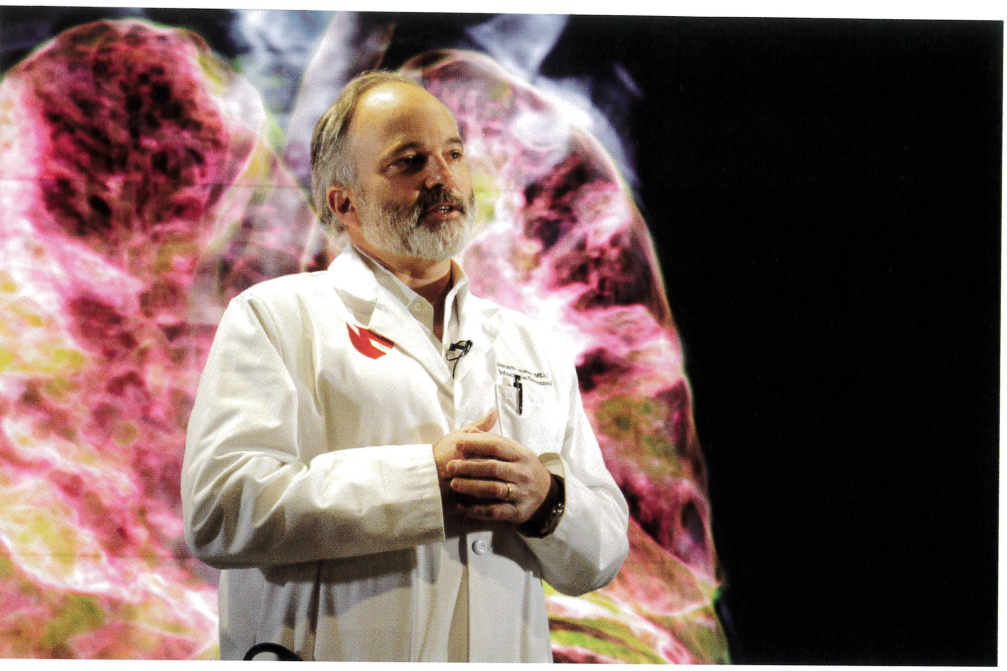
Learning brought to life.

James Lawler, MD, uses 3D animation in a UNMC press conference to explain how COVID-19 can damage lungs.

Wittson Hall

Honing clinical skills.

House officers and fellows review and explore anatomy to better understand their disciplines.



Clarkson Tower

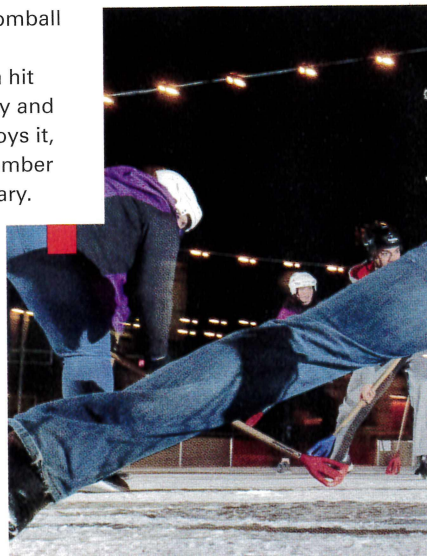
Saving lives. Together.

UNMC is indispensable to the overall health of the state. Angela Hewlett, MD, is a leader in infectious diseases, and helps educate fellows, residents and students.

UNMC Ice Rink

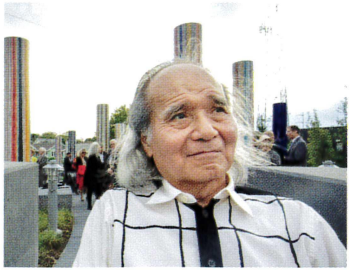
Taking to the ice.

From skating to broomball to curling, UNMC's seasonal ice rink is a hit with students, faculty and staff. The public enjoys it, too, from early December through early February.

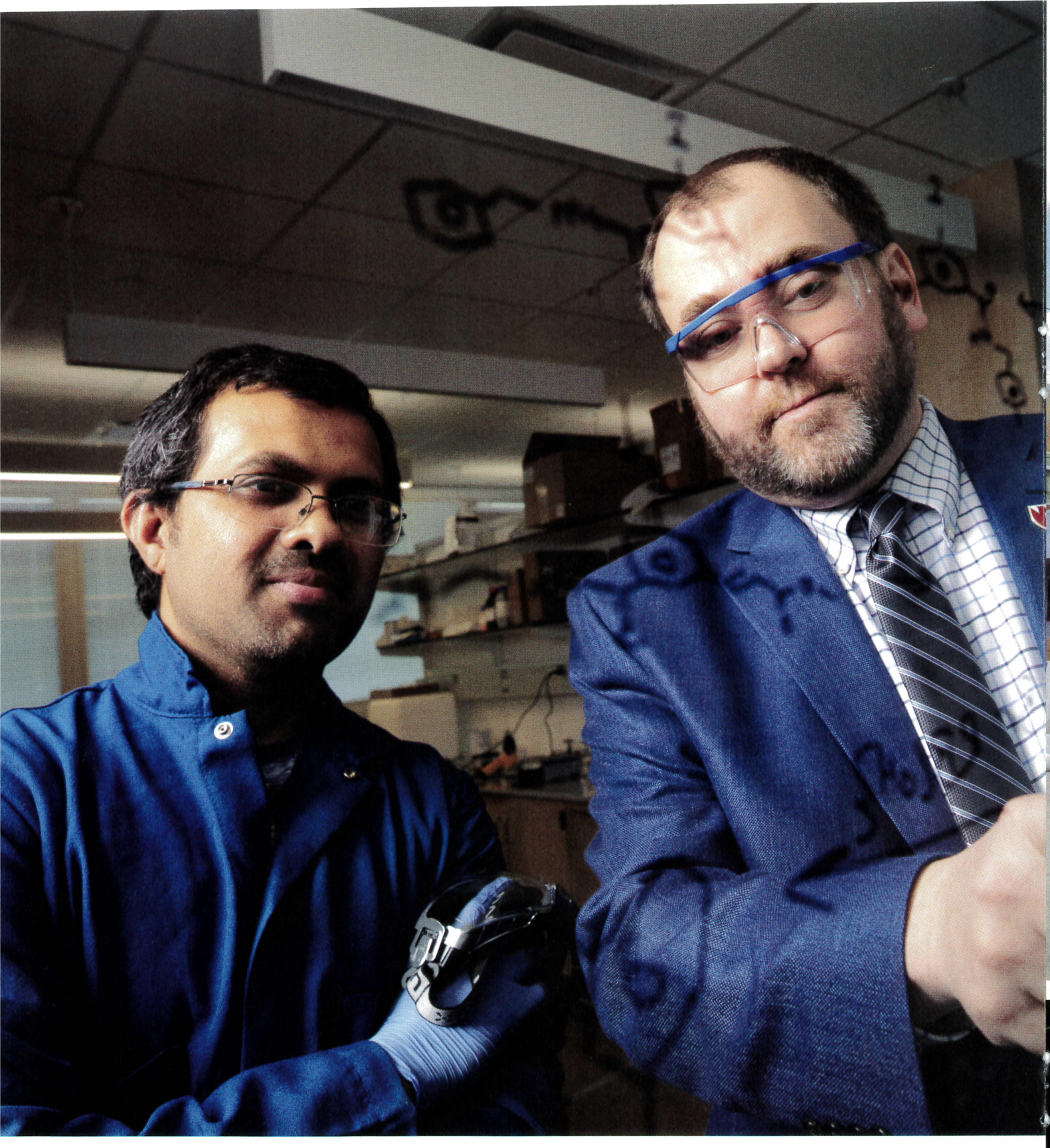


Medical Center Plaza

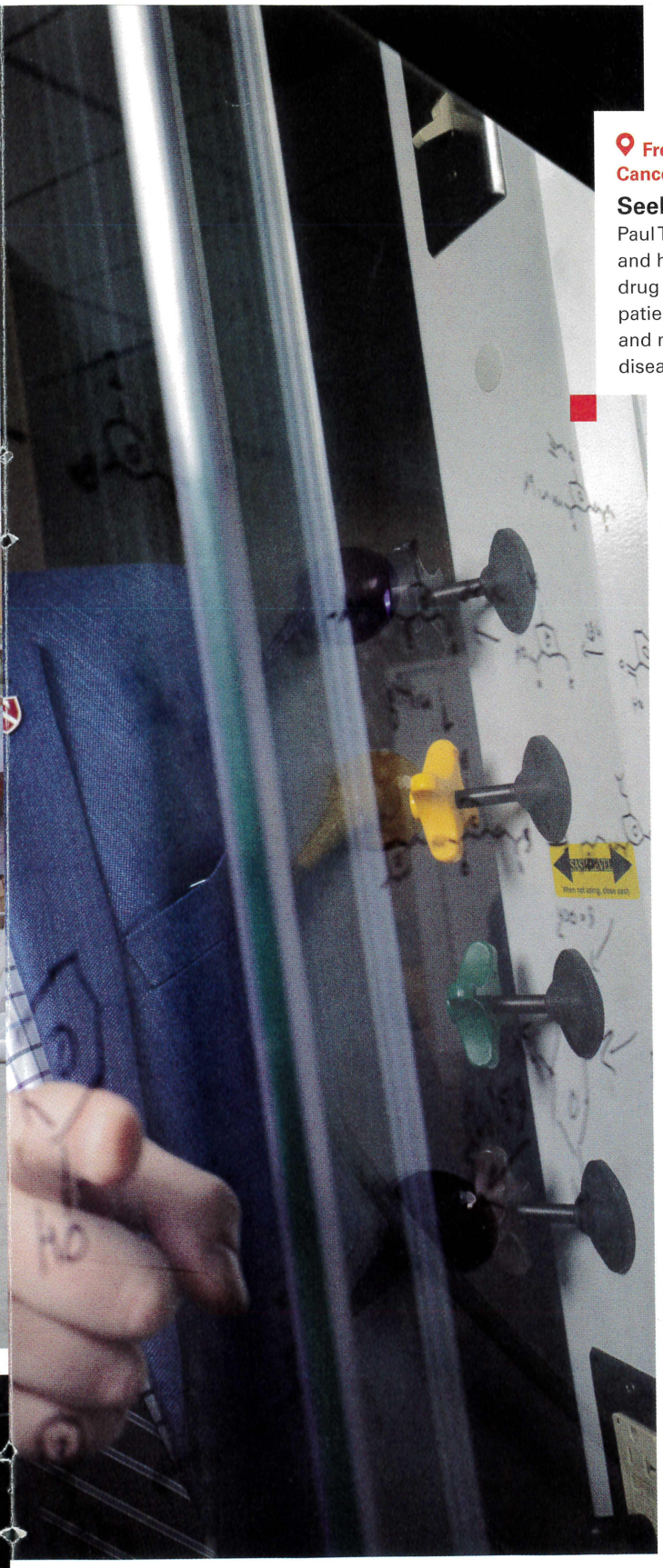
Wintery walk.
Eighteen ceramic columns by Omaha-based artist Jun Kaneko create a tranquil setting for UNMC's front door.



PUBLIC ART BY JUN KANEKO (LEFT), DALE CHIHULY, HOWARD BUFFETT, MARY ZICAFOOSE, MATTHEW PLACZEK AND OTHERS TRANSFORMS THE HEALTH CARE EXPERIENCE.



ACROSS THE UNMC CAMPUS, COLLABORATIONS FUEL SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES AND CREATE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.



Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

Seeking answers.
Paul Trippier, PhD (right), and his team focus on drug discoveries to help patients with cancer and neurodegenerative diseases.

Sorrell Center

Eyeing the future.
First-year med students proudly wear their white coats as they explore their career paths and build relationships.

Durham
Research Center II

Practice-based learning.

UNMC students are actively involved in developing innovative approaches to addressing contemporary health issues. Corrine Manaco, a PhD student, works in the obstetrics and gynecology research labs.

UNMC campus

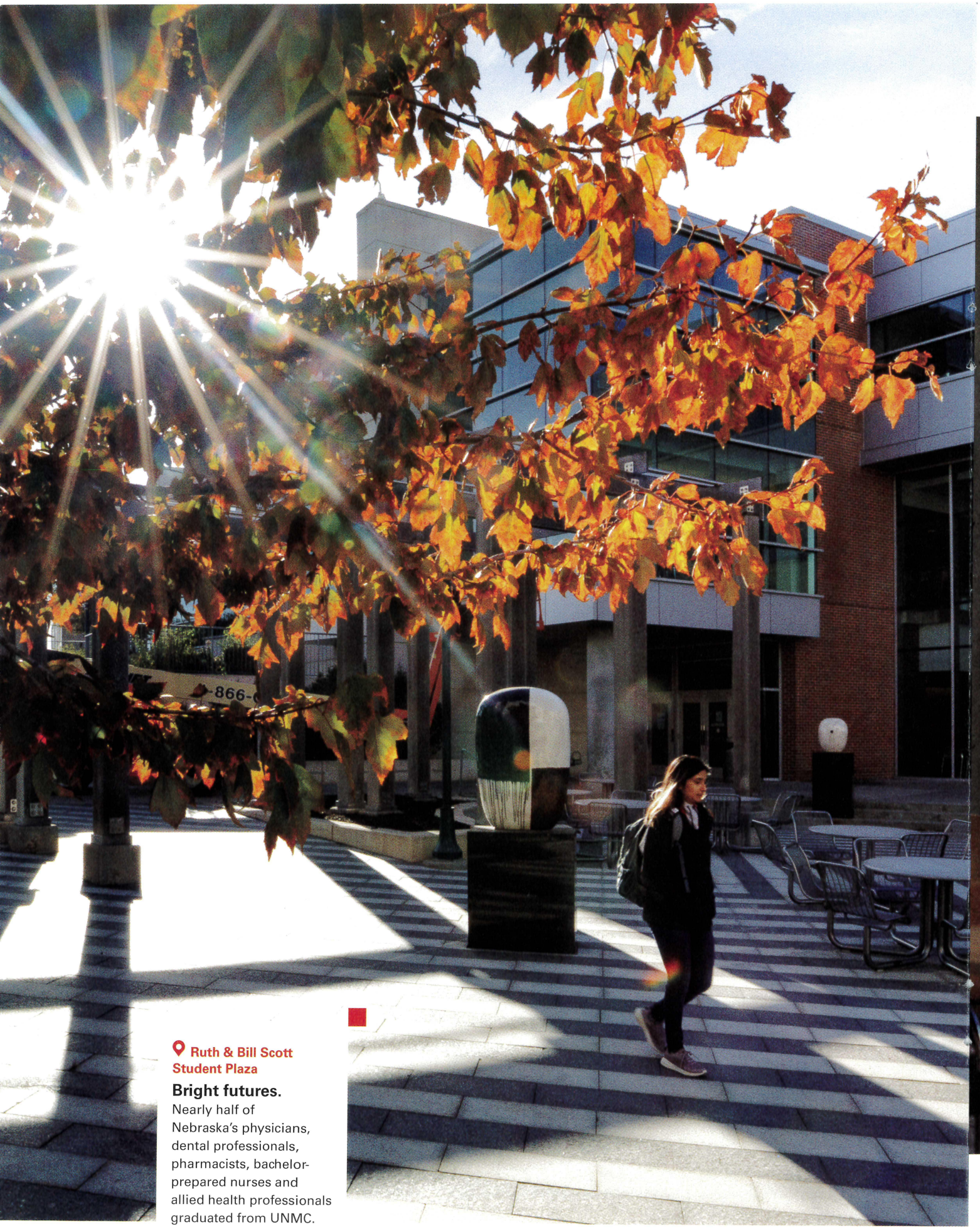
Grounded in purpose.

Everyone rolls up their sleeves and contributes to UNMC's mission.

Falconwood Park, Bellevue, Nebraska

"I matched!"

In March, graduating medical students nationwide take part in Match Day to learn where they will train for residency. For many, it's a family celebration.



Ruth & Bill Scott Student Plaza

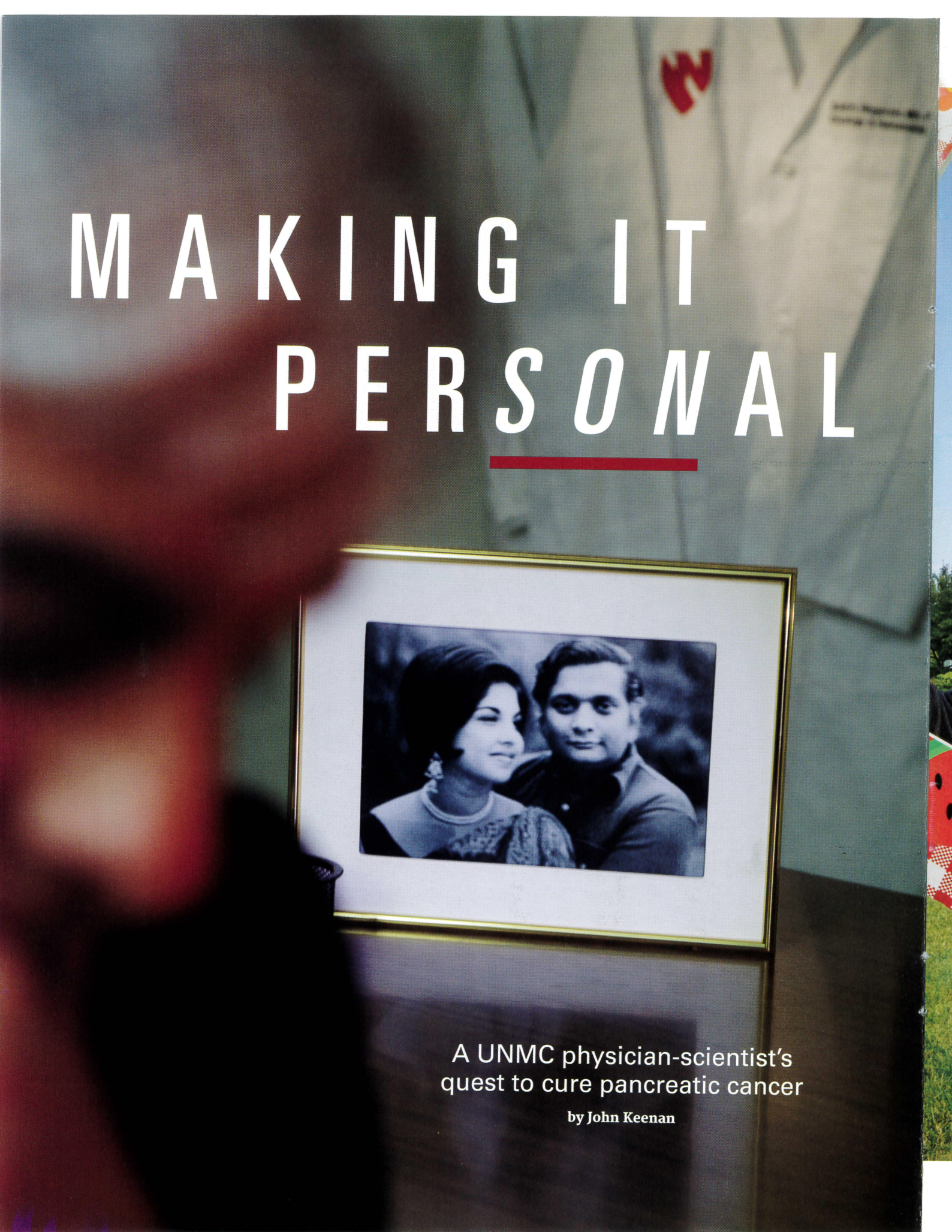
Bright futures.
Nearly half of Nebraska's physicians, dental professionals, pharmacists, bachelor-prepared nurses and allied health professionals graduated from UNMC.

MAGIC HAPPENS WHEN I PICK UP A CAMERA. IT STARTED IN HIGH SCHOOL WHILE SHOOTING A YEARBOOK ASSIGNMENT WITH MY FIRST REAL CAMERA, A 35MM CANON FTB. IN THAT INSTANT, I INSTINCTIVELY KNEW HOW TO CAPTURE AND SHARE WHAT OTHERS MIGHT NOT SEE. AFTER NEARLY 50 YEARS BEHIND THE LENS, I'VE CAPTURED THE BEST AND WORST IN THIS WORLD, HAD GRAND ADVENTURES AND MET DELIGHTFUL PEOPLE. BEST OF ALL, I'VE BEEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO MAKE PEOPLE SMILE AND SEE NEW PERSPECTIVES.

About Kent Sievers

In 2019, Kent left a long career with the Omaha World-Herald to join UNMC Strategic Communications, where he captures day-to-day magic campuswide. For a smile, follow @kentsageek on Instagram.

MAKING IT PERSONAL



A UNMC physician-scientist's quest to cure pancreatic cancer

by John Keenan

When his father was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 1998, Sunil Hingorani, MD, PhD, was exquisitely placed to have the best possible impact on his father's cancer struggle. He was a clinical fellow in gastrointestinal oncology at the Dana Farber Institute. He also was doing post-doctoral research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in a laboratory that was studying the gene that was the main driver of pancreatic cancer. **But he found he could do little.**

"We essentially had no chemotherapeutic agents that were effective," he said. "Gemcitabine had just been FDA approved for the treatment of pancreas cancer. But we already knew it didn't impact survival much, if at all. The reason the FDA approved it was primarily because of some symptom relief and quality of life improvement, but it really didn't prolong survival significantly."

When Dr. Hingorani speaks of his father, a listener can hear the respect. The pride. The love.

Ram H. Hingorani was an engineer who attended the prestigious Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. It was during his studies at RPI that he noticed something about his fellow students – their sense that the world was wide open.

"They were filled with thoughts and ideas of all the things they could do," is how he explained it to his son.

"Growing up in India, you understand from a relatively young age where the boundaries are — boxes are put around possibilities and avenues of where you might progress," Dr. Hingorani said. "Here in America, there was no such thing. He and my mother decided they wanted that for their children."

So they came to America, where they started an engineering firm and where Dr. Hingorani — the eldest of three children — fulfilled his father's American dream, studying at Yale, studying at Harvard, getting his MD, his PhD, and prestigious fellowships.

But when Dr. Hingorani talks about this part of the story, there's no sense of pride.

"I couldn't do a damn thing for the one person in the universe that I perhaps cared about the most," he said. "The man who gave me everything and had never once asked me for anything."

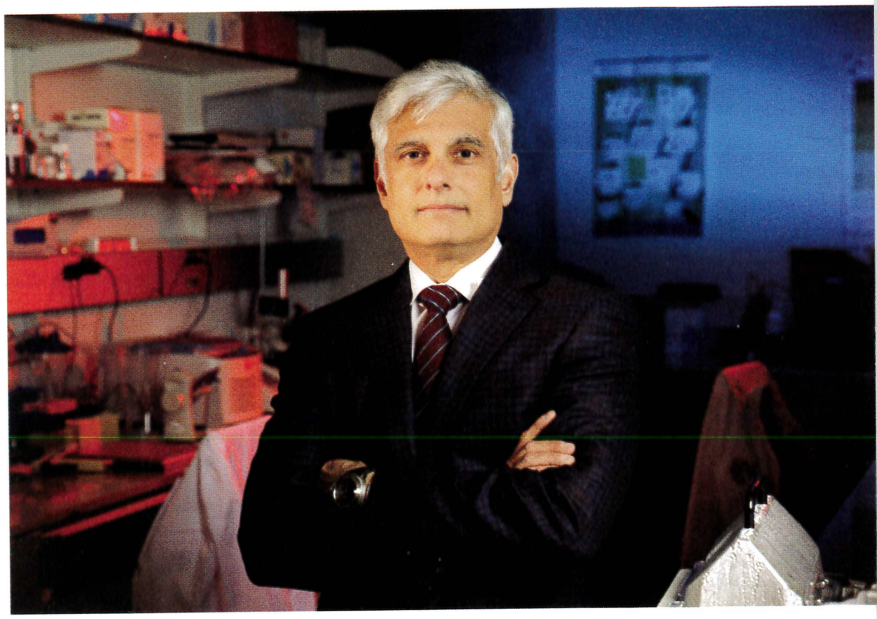
***

Pancreatic cancer is an insidious thing.

"One of the great problems, both clinically and scientifically, is that pancreas cancer almost always presents at very advanced stages," Dr. Hingorani said. "In the majority of cases, it's already metastatic, and it's certainly not something that can be addressed surgically. So, you have an advanced disease in which the patient is likely to live weeks or months.

"That's challenging for the clinician. Certainly, it's terrifying for the patient and the family. But it also means, scientifically, we have no real understanding of how the disease arose."

Researchers don't get to see the polyp stage, as they do for colon cancer. Or the ductile carcinoma in



"I couldn't do a damn thing for the one person in the universe that I perhaps cared about the most. The man who gave me everything and had never once asked me for anything."

PHOTOS BY KENT SIEVERS

situ, as they might in breast cancer. And pancreatic cancer is also remarkably difficult to biopsy.

"The pancreas itself is very difficult to get to," Dr. Hingorani explains. "It's dangerous to biopsy, because when you stick a needle in the pancreas, it'll release the digestive enzymes, which can then leak locally into the tissue and then begin to autodigest the pancreas. Which causes more enzymes to leak, resulting in pancreatitis."

So the sort of serial biopsies routinely done on patients, as in a colonoscopy, cannot be done on a pancreas. Preventive care is not merely impractical — it is almost impossible. When the cancer is discovered, it is almost always too late to treat it.

***

When his father got sick, Dr. Hingorani discovered that there was a world of difference between being a clinical provider of a cancer patient and being a family member.

"It was eye-opening," he said. "I'd always thought of myself as being a fairly empathetic physician — caring and attuned to the patient's needs. I realized that, in going through this process — at the hospitals where I trained — the systems are designed for the convenience of the providers – the surgeons, the oncologists, the nurses, everyone who takes care of patients. The system is built around their convenience, not the patients'."

It was a realization that would have a great impact as he continued in his career. But first, Dr. Hingorani had to bring his father home to die.

Dr. Hingorani was literally across the street, but unable to make the appointment, when physicians told his father that it was time to go home.

"You don't want to die in a hospital," they said.

When Dr. Hingorani learned his father was going to be discharged, he drove his car around to the back of the hospital and popped the trunk. One of his father's nurses — he won't say who — met him there.

"She couldn't do this today, but she basically loaded the car up with all the kinds of supplies and things that I would need to take care of my dad at home," he said.

"When you started as a clinical fellow at the Dana Farber back then, you were paired one-to-one with a nurse who essentially becomes your nurse for your entire time," he said. "Those nurses are incredible. And I probably learned more about oncology care from my nurse than any of my teachers."

Dr. Hingorani went back to Connecticut with a trunkful of medical equipment and a goal. His father was concerned about the future of his company and its employees, many of whom had been with him for more than two decades. He wanted a new owner who would continue the company and keep all the employees.

"That's what he asked me," Dr. Hingorani said. "Could I keep him alive long enough for him to do that? And I told him quite honestly, I didn't know, but I would try."

Four months later, on April 2, 1999, and from a bed on the first floor of his house, Ram Hingorani

Sunil Hingorani, MD, PhD, leads a weekly pancreas multidisciplinary conference at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. At left is Christina Hoy, DNP, clinical program director for the Pancreatic Diseases Specialty Clinic in the Pancreatic Cancer Center of Excellence.

completed the sale of his company, on his terms, ensuring the security of his more than 70 employees.

It was 11:30 a.m.

Three hours later, he was gone.

***

When Sunil Hingorani arrived at UNMC in May 2022, he came with a stated goal — to cure pancreatic cancer within a decade. He came with the tools: mouse models that he helped develop, which are now so accurate and faithful to the human cancer that pathologists say they can't tell them apart from human samples. And he came with a diagnosis of a main problem.

Unlike other cancer cells, which reach into the body's circulatory system to grow, a pancreas cancer cell will actually decrease its blood supply as the tumor grows. So chemotherapy, which is delivered through the circulatory system, "never gets into the tumor in sufficient concentrations," Dr. Hingorani said.

His laboratory made this discovery in 2012 and described its mechanism. This was big news, information that could shift treatment approaches. "It provided both a very simple and powerful explanation: these tumors weren't intrinsically resistant. They just never got exposed to a high enough concentration of the drugs."

Excited, Dr. Hingorani called his mother. He was keeping her informed on his work, of course. The whole family had skin in this game, after all.

"She lost the love of her life," he said. "I mean, I'm still angry to this day, and that motivates everything I do, about the fact that I wasn't able to help my father. But if you think I'm angry, you should talk to her.

"I have to give her progress reports periodically about how we're doing. So, I described this result to her, this discovery and that in the scientific community, we were getting a lot of credit for it.

"My mother listens to this and she says, 'OK, so let me see if I understand.

"'First of all, you're an oncologist, right? And you give chemotherapy to your patients?

"'So, you're telling me that the drugs you've been giving, you're saying that it went to every tissue in the body except the cancer you were trying to reach?'

"I said, 'Yes, mom. That's right.'

"And then she says, 'And you're proud of yourself?'

"And I said, 'Uh, no mom, I guess I'm not.'

"And she said, 'That's right. Why don't you get back to work?' And she hung up the phone."

***

There are several reasons that Dr. Hingorani brought his work to UNMC.

"I'd always thought of myself as being a fairly empathetic physician ... I realized that, in going through this process—at the hospitals where I trained ... The system is built around their convenience, not the patients'."

Part of the reason was his father's heroic, four-month battle to complete the sale of his company, and the lesson it taught.

"That has remained to me a powerful reminder of the importance of the patient's mindset," Dr. Hingorani said. "I've seen that over and over again. I always ask at the first visit: What are the patient's goals? What are the most important things to them? Are there some specific milestones or lifetime events that they're working toward?

"The point being that you put the patient in the center of everything you do, of everything you build and of everything you study."

He sees that emphasis at UNMC, Nebraska Medicine and the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center.

"There's a level of commitment, by the state, state legislature, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, key physicians and philanthropists, within the institution and in the community. There are people who have been affected deeply by this disease in the same way that my family has."

In May 2022, Dr. Hingorani addressed the media at an event marking the partnership of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center and the Berenberg Invitational Golf Tournament.

He thanked the tournament and its sponsors for providing significant research funding to the cancer center. And then he delivered what amounted to a mission statement.

"You root everything in the patient," he said. "There are discoveries being made that will make a difference at some point, but only if your goal is to apply those discoveries to the care of the patient, only if you've decided that is what your aim is.

"There is tremendous talent here, there is tremendous science, tremendous clinical medicine, but the most important thing is that there's that ethos of 'the ability to do this.'"

The ability to find a cure for pancreatic cancer — that's what he sees at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center.

"All the pieces are here," he said. "A director of the center can provide the catalyst, that impetus, that stimulus.

"And I'm honored to be that person."

College of Nursing gift extends Dean Sebastian's legacy

by Susan Houston Klaus

ONLY IN NEBRASKA
Scan and donate to the University of Nebraska Foundation to make a tribute to Dr. Sebastian and help nursing students.

When she retires this spring, UNMC College of Nursing Dean Juliann Sebastian, PhD, will leave the college in excellent stead. That's thanks not only to her many accomplishments while on the job, but also to the legacy she and her husband, Russell, have created.

The Juliann G. and James Russell Sebastian Nursing Endowed Scholarship, created through their gift to the University of Nebraska Foundation, will be awarded annually to students in the College of Nursing who have financial need.

Together with additional contributions made in honor of Dr. Sebastian's service, the $300,000 endowed fund will provide scholarships for future generations of nursing students enrolled in any of the college's five divisions in Scottsbluff, Kearney, Norfolk, Lincoln and Omaha.

The gift comes at a critical time for a profession with a dramatic shortage of workers — a situation that hasn't left Nebraska unaffected.

According to the Nebraska Center for Nursing 2022 Biennial Report, between 2018 and 2021 the state lost an average of 1.5 nurses for every 1,000 people. That represents a decrease of 9.5% in the nursing workforce during that period.

It's an especially troubling statistic when Nebraska has faced a deficit of nursing professionals for a number of years, Dr. Sebastian said.

PHOTOS BY KENT SIEVERS

"We have shortages in bedside nursing and other types of direct care nursing, in advanced practice nursing and in nurse faculty," she said. "And the pandemic and the deepening shortage have shown us how critical nurses are."

The scholarship fund represents what Dr. Sebastian describes as a shared responsibility to help students in the health professions. By creating a fund to help those with financial need, she hopes recipients can find balance between school and other commitments.

"I know how hard students work," she said. "Really, ideally, it's a full-time job to be able to focus and concentrate and take advantage of everything you're trying to learn, and build networks, friendships and colleagues that will last a lifetime."

But beyond making important connections, many students must juggle jobs with their education in order to have income that's necessary to live, Dr. Sebastian said.

"It made sense to give them that extra leg up so they wouldn't have quite so much stress, quite so much worry about managing finances while they're also trying to study to become nurses, or to advance their careers as graduate students," she said.

Student support is a key focus of *Only in Nebraska: A Campaign for Our University's Future*, a university fundraising initiative that was publicly launched last November (learn more on page 4 and at OnlyinNebraska.org). The Sebastians' gift directly serves one of the campaign's goals: to fund targeted programs and scholarships to address areas of workforce shortages that include health care providers.

That support of UNMC nursing students through the scholarship fund will extend across the state, an important recognition, Dr. Sebastian said, of serving students where they already live and work.

"Many students are place bound — they have families, jobs, or simply love the area they're living in. So we wanted the scholarship to be available for everyone. We're one college, and every campus is vital to the success of the college."

Dr. Sebastian's legacy includes helping the Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing degree program achieve a Top 15 ranking by U.S. News & World Report, and collaborating with the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions and the University of Nebraska at Kearney to expand enrollment in the College of Nursing.

After she steps away, she'll still be cheering the college's faculty, staff, students and alumni.

"I've met with so many alums who were themselves enormous pathbreakers, who took risks and set the pace and did things that were so ahead of their time. It's been a privilege to be part of all that."

Dr. Sebastian's husband, Russell, and daughter, Kim, help unveil a portrait that will hang in the UNMC College of Nursing.

Olson Foundation creates doctoral student scholarship

To honor Dean Sebastian upon her retirement and her legacy in nursing, the Leland J. and Dorothy H. Olson Charitable Foundation of Omaha has made a generous gift to establish the Dr. Julie Sebastian Health Equity Scholars Fund.

The permanent endowment will allow UNMC to award annual scholarships to students enrolled in the College of Nursing who are pursuing a doctoral degree and are committed to research, education or nursing practice that aims to ensure health equity and help eliminate health disparities.

First consideration for scholarship aid will be given to those with financial need who are first-generation college students and demonstrate strong academic merit.

"The Olson family has had the pleasure of supporting the College of Nursing for several years," said Christian Olson of the Olson Foundation.

"Dorothy Olson was a proud graduate of the college, and members of our family have been impressed with the leadership and passion of Dean Sebastian over the years. It was for this reason our board voted to create a scholarship to honor Julie as she retires, and to support the important role that nurses play in advancing health equity in our community."

The Leland J. and Dorothy H. Olson Charitable Foundation was founded in Omaha in 1992 after its founders spent decades supporting women's health through philanthropy and investing. Research and patient care at the University of Nebraska also was a resonating cause with the Olsons and, since their foundation's inception, its scope of focus has expanded to include education, family, health and environment.

NEWS

Join your new exclusive online community

UNMC Alumni Connections launched in April 2021 as a dedicated place for alumni and students to connect through messaging, meetings, groups, discussion boards and more. It facilitates mentorship, networking and connection. More than 1,160 alumni and students have exchanged more than 470 messages since the site's launch. Don't miss out on the opportunity for conversation and connection. Join today at **connections.unmcalumni.org**.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANANDA WALDEN

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@UNMCalum
@unmcalumni
@UNMCAA

2022 ALUMNI AWARDS

The UNMC Alumni Association and its councils select award recipients each year based on the individuals' outstanding accomplishments. Whether it's service to their profession, community or the University, those selected have made a difference and set an example for others to follow.

"We applaud the work of our award recipients who have blazed a trail for future health care professionals," said Catherine Mello, UNMC alumni director. "We are so proud of their many accomplishments, and it is an honor to recognize them through the annual alumni awards program."

GRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAM

Tammy Kielian, PhD
Honorary Alumnus Award

Michael Dixon, PhD '03
Early Career Achievement Award

Kyle Meyer, PhD, PT '79, MS '85
Distinguished Alumnus Award

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Bradley Britigan, MD
Honorary Alumnus Award

Emily McElroy
Honorary Alumnus Award

Kristina Derrick, MD '10
Early Career Achievement Award

John "Andy" Craig, MD '13
Dedication to Student Excellence Award

Anne Hubbard, MD '77
Distinguished Alumnus Award

COLLEGE OF NURSING

Juliann G. Sebastian, PhD
Honorary Alumnus Award

Katie Speer, BSN '14
Nursing Excellence Award

Patricia Lopez, MSN '90
Dorothy Patach Spirit of Service Award

Lindsay Huse, DNP, BSN '01
Dorothy Patach Spirit of Service Award

Roxanne Stahl, ADN 1984, BSN 1986
Distinguished Alumnus Award

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Patrick Woster, PhD '87 (Bachelor of Pharmacy – 1978)
Distinguished Alumnus Award

COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Rachael Saniuk, MPS '10
Distinguished Alumnus Award – Clinical Perfusion

Troy Matthias, CT (ASCP)
Distinguished Alumnus Award – Cytotechnology

Jan Tompkins, MPH '04, MT '72 (ASCP)
Distinguished Alumnus Award – Medical Laboratory Science

Mariah Kay Jackson, MMN '19, RDN, LMNT
Early Career Achievement Award – Medical Nutrition

Peter Hunt, MPA-C '87, '00
Distinguished Alumnus Award – Physician Assistant

Mark Aksamit, MPAS '13, PA-C, CAQ-Psych
Early Career Achievement Award – Physician Assistant

Lisa Black, PT '82, DPT
Distinguished Alumnus Award – Physical Therapy

Kellie Gossman, PT, DPT '12, PCS
Early Career Achievement Award – Physical Therapy

Randy Wobig, BS '87, '88
Distinguished Alumnus Award – Imaging Sciences

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Brandon Grimm, PhD '13, MPH '05
Distinguished Alumnus Award

Issaka Kabore, MD, MPH '18, DrPH(c)
Early Career Achievement Award

Armando De Alba Rosales, MD, MPH '13
Diversity Equity & Inclusion Award
Inaugural Recipient

COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

James Jenkins, DDS '84
Outstanding Educator Award

Sreenivas Koka, DDS, PhD '99
Honorary Life Membership Award

John Reinhardt, DDS
Distinguished Service Award

Richard Reinhardt, DDS '72, PhD '87
Alumni Achievement Award

See the honorees' bios at **unmc.edu/alumni**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

29
Physical Therapy Program All-Class Celebration
In recognition of 50 years of graduates

SEPTEMBER

8-9
Alumni Reunion Weekend
For graduates of the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy and the Graduate Studies Program

OCTOBER

2-6
College of Nursing Class of 1965
80th Birthday Party & Reunion

OCTOBER

6-7
Medical School Class of 1973 Reunion

20-21
College of Dentistry Alumni Reunion

Events are subject to change. Find the latest information at **unmc.edu/alumni/events**.

Let us hear from you!

Send us your news through this online form: **go.unmc.edu/unmcaaupdate**.

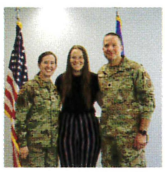
Don't see your submission here? It may not have reached us in time for our print deadline. Check out our Special Edition of Class Notes at go.unmc.edu/classnotes22 or watch for our next digital edition in summer 2023.

2020s

Jasye Morrison N'20 *Papillion, Neb.*, received the Daisy Award in May 2022 and became certified in electronic fetal monitoring in 2022. ➔

Turner MacPhee PT'21 *East Peoria, Ill.*, was recently promoted to captain in the United States Air Force (USAF). She was commissioned by USAF Maj. **Liz Buss PT'17**. MacPhee was competitively selected as one of four residents for the USAF orthopedic residency program. She will attend Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, and then report to Joint Base San Antonio in Texas for her one-year residency. After residency, she will be assigned as a physical therapist to an operational Air Force base stateside or overseas. She completed a clinical rotation with Dr. Buss at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., in spring 2021. ➔

Jasye Morrison is a standout at Nebraska Medicine.



Maj. Liz Buss, center, with Capt. Turner MacPhee and her spouse, Lt. Col. Eric Buss.

Megan Perry GS'21 *Omaha, Neb.*, became a faculty member in the UNMC Department of Genetics, Cell Biology and Anatomy in spring 2022. She is an assistant professor in the UNMC College of Medicine and teaches gross anatomy and neuroanatomy to graduate, allied health and medical students.

Callie Babcock N'22 *Galva, Iowa*, became CEO of Loring Hospital in May 2022. She previously was nursing services director for the North Central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City, Iowa.

ALUMNI CODES

BS Bachelor of Science **CLS** Clinical Laboratory Science **CP** Clinical Perfusion **Cyto** Cytotechnology **D** Dentistry **DH** Dental Hygiene **GS** Graduate Studies **HPTT** Health Professions Teaching and Technology **MS** Master of Science **MHA** Master of Health Administration **M** Medicine **MITS** Medical Imaging & Therapeutic Sciences **MLS** Medical Laboratory Science **MN** Medical Nutrition **MT** Medical Technology **N** Nursing **P** Pharmacy **PA** Physician Assistant **PH** Public Health **PT** Physical Therapy **RST** Radiation Science Technology **RT** Radiologic Technology

PHOTOS BY KENT SIEVERS

Jenna Boyd PT'22 *Scottsbluff, Neb.*, joined Bluffs Physical Therapy in summer 2022. She has a passion for people and is excited to be back in western Nebraska serving the community where she grew up. In her free time, she enjoys being with her husband, John, their dog, Juniper, and exploring the outdoors, kayaking, playing various sports and yard games and cheering on the Huskers.

Brooke Lawson DH'22 *Omaha, Neb.*, joined the UNMC College of Public Health as a PhD graduate assistant in the Center for Reducing Health Disparities. She has a strong connection to UNMC, participating in the High School Alliance program (2017-2018), completing the Summer Undergraduate Research Program (2019) and most recently graduating from the College of Dentistry. As a graduate student in the college's department of health promotion, she is gaining new knowledge and skills to help reduce disparities in oral health.

Kyle Lowery PT'22 *Kearney, Neb.*, joined TEAM Physical Therapy in August 2022.

Johnna Richter P'22 *Gothenburg, Neb.*, joined Gothenburg Health in May 2022 as a full-time pharmacist.

Krysten Vance, GS '22 *Omaha, Neb.*, started a new position as an image analyst at Indica Labs in July 2022.

2010s

Megan Heath N'10 *Gordon, Neb.*, was named interim chief executive officer of Gordon Memorial Health Services in August 2022. In 2011, she began her career there as a night shift registered nurse, and since 2016, has served as chief nursing officer for the hospital. Outside of work, she enjoys traveling and spending time with her husband and three children.

Stephanie Pelan N'10 *David City, Neb.*, was named assistant director of surgical services at Columbus Community Hospital in July 2022. She joined the hospital in 2015 as a full-time nurse in the operating room and, in fall 2020 became the line coordinator in the operating room.

Sara Myers GS'11 *Ashland, Neb.*, was recently elected president of the American Society of Biomechanics. Her president-elect term started in August 2022. →

John Sullivan PA'11 *Camden, Del.*, recently celebrated 20 years of service at Bayhealth Medical Center. He is currently the lead PA for the Kent and Susses campus and co-chairman of the Advanced Practices Council.

Kellie Gossman PT'12 *Kearney, Neb.*, and **Logan Payne PT'17**, are recent recipients of a community grant from the American Physical Therapy Association's Nebraska chapter. They will use the funds to develop a new program, Purposeful Play with Pedi PTs. The program helps parents and caregivers foster fun interactions with their children.

Elizabeth Kix PH'12 *Elmwood Park, Ill.*, accepted a new career position in July 2022 with the Society for Gynecologic Oncology and the Foundations for Women's Cancer as chief marketing and communications officer. →

Tiffany Moore GS'12 *Elkhorn, Neb.*, is president-elect of the National Perinatal Association for 2021-2023. She is an associate professor in the UNMC College of Nursing and in September 2022 became interim associate dean for academic programs in the College of Nursing.

Courtney Batra N'13, '21 *Omaha, Neb.*, joined Nebraska Medicine in fall 2022, in the Frederick F. Paustian Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center. →

Kyle Brown PA'13 *Sidney, Neb.*, was recently named Preceptor of the Year by Creighton University's Physician Assistant Program. He sees patients at Regional West Physicians Clinic-Family Medicine clinics in Sidney and nearby Chappell and at Regional West Garden County in Oshkosh.

Sadie Johnson PA'13 *Holdrege, Neb.*, joined the Specialty Clinic at Phelps Memorial Hospital (PMH) in November 2022. She has nearly a decade of experience in cardiology, and PMH recently built a new cardiac cath lab and, in early 2023, began offering minimally invasive cardiac cath procedures, as well as interventional radiology procedures in partnership with cardiologists from Lincoln-based Pioneer Heart Institute and radiologists from Advanced Medical Imaging.

Sara Myers is a biomechanics standout.

Risha Batra is educating future surgeons.

Elizabeth Kix's new focus is women's cancer awareness.

Courtney Batra specializes in IBD.

Greg McClanahan M'13, Family Medicine '16 *Ord, Neb.*, was named chief of staff of Valley County Health System in August 2022 and will serve a one-year term.

Candice Schnoor N'13 *Albion, Neb.*, joined Boone Country Health Center as a nurse practitioner in fall 2022.

← **Rishi Batra M'14** *Omaha, Neb.*, joined the department of surgery at UNMC as an assistant professor in fall 2022; he practices at Nebraska Medicine as a colon and rectal surgeon.

Hailey Battle N'15, '20 *Colorado Springs, Colo.*, recently moved to Fort Carson, Colo., where she is a staff psychiatric nurse practitioner with the Consult Liaison team at Access TeleCare.

↑ **Jaime Gabel PH'15** *Lawrence, Kan.*, married Jason Orr, on July 30, 2022, in Okaloosa, Okla. She's a senior epidemiologist with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Angela Johnson N'15 *Laurel, Neb.*, was named interim assistant dean for the Northern Division of the UNMC College of Nursing in November 2022.

Kate Mueller PA'15 *Emerson, Neb.*, joined Pender Community Hospital in September 2022, as a part-time physician assistant, seeing patients in the emergency room, as well as at the Emerson and Pender Medical Clinics.

In Memoriam

Kenneth M. Browne M'44, '49
Weaverville, N.C.
11/3/2022

Harold Guard M'46
Palisade, Colo.
1/5/2022

Edward Malashock M'46
Omaha, Neb.
5/10/2022

Marilyn E. Wellensiek N'47
Syracuse, Neb.
11/21/2022

Betty Rath N'49
Canton, S.D.
9/12/2022

Angeline G. Liakos N'53
Loveland, Colo.
10/8/2022

Leona P. Mitcheltree N'53
Lincoln, Neb.
11/14/2022

Marilyn Reitz N'53
North Platte, Neb.
3/24/2022

Carl Hasegawa M'54
Rochester Hills, Mich.
1/23/2022

Donald Kuxhausen M'55
Meridian, Idaho
7/9/2022

Margaret J. Young N'55
Blair, Neb.
11/29/2022

William B. Eaton M'56
Fremont, Neb.
10/22/2022

Shirley Johnson N'56
Lincoln, Neb.
2/19/2022

Gordon Fredrickson M'57, '59
Omaha, Neb.
7/4/2022

C. R. Hulquist M'57
San Diego, Calif.
5/6/2022

William Nye M'58
Lincoln, Neb.
4/5/2022

Gerald Tharp BS'58, MS'61
Lincoln, Neb.
8/10/2022

Maurice Skeith BS'59, M'60
Seattle, Wash.
9/19/2022

Verna Holliman N'60
Tyler, Texas
2/9/2022

Jack Talsma M'60
Reno, Nev.
2/11/2022

Vernon Fry D'61, MS'63, Certificates '95, '06, '07
Jamul, Calif.
6/7/2022

William G. Heusel M'61
Lincoln, Neb.
10/22/2022

Robert Martin M'61
Cherokee, Iowa
4/13/2022

Barbara Flick N'63, '87
Mitchell, Neb.
11/24/2022

Charles Hamm M'63
Kingsley, Iowa
7/16/2022

Ronald W. Hansrote M'63
Jensen Beach, Fla.
10/5/2022

Carol Toft N'63
Cheyenne, Wyo.
4/14/2022

Larry Forsberg BS'64
Lincoln, Neb.
9/20/2022

Gary Jurgenson P'64
Fremont, Neb.
2/5/2022

Lance Mikkelsen P'64, M'69
Boulder, Colo.
2/16/2022

Jerry Schaaf P'64, M'69
Kansas City, Mo.
7/11/2022

Grace E. Miller N'65, '82
Omaha, Neb.
10/27/2022

Karen Petersen Fischer N'66
Lincoln, Neb.
6/15/2022

Eugene Schwenke BS'66, M'68
Cornelius, N.C.
11/21/2022

Donald Gammel M'67
Glenwood, Iowa
5/25/2022

John Lasnetski D'67
Poulsbo, Wash.
12/1/2022

Harry Allison P'68
Auburn, Neb.
9/11/2022

Steven Byars M'68
Lee's Summit, Mo.
7/11/2022

Sheila Larson N'68, '87
Omaha, Neb.
4/3/2022

Gary Gilmour P'69
Lincoln, Neb.
5/31/2022

Philip Metz M'69
Wilmington, N.C.
6/21/2022

Robert Wigton M'69, '73
Omaha, Neb.
8/22/2022

David Bolam M'70
Valley, Neb.
7/13/2022

Roger Massie M'70
Malcolm, Neb.
8/7/2022

John Dyhrberg M'71
South Portland, Maine
9/7/2022

Charles Marlowe M'71
Omaha, Neb.
1/21/2022

William Rogers M'71
Colorado Springs, Colo.
6/18/2022

Dudley Syre M'71, Otolaryngology '75
Council Bluffs, Iowa
2/22/2022

Frederick Catlett M'73, Family Medicine '76
Hastings, Neb.
2/1/2022

Dolores Goodman N'73
Omaha, Neb.
6/5/2022

Timothy L. Wichert BS '73
Grand Island, Neb.
10/8/2022

Michael Hanich M'74, Family Medicine '77
Kearney, Neb.
1/1/2022

David Lieske P'74
Grand Island, Neb.
3/17/2022

M. Allen Tompkins M'74
Grand Island, Neb.
7/11/2022

Carissa Beutler-Schneider N'75
Des Moines, Iowa
1/15/2022

Robert J. Brown M'75
Fruitport, Mich.
10/13/2022

Ruth Fehr DH'75
Box Elder, S.D.
4/27/2022

Shirley Hanna N'75
Omaha, Neb.
3/14/2022

Donna McElvain N'75, '93
Lincoln, Neb.
9/5/2022

George Seberg M'75
Honolulu, Hawaii
2/2/2022

Beverly Smith MT'75
Plattsmouth, Neb.
3/21/2022

David Cooley D'76
Rapid City, S.D.
9/8/2022

Diane Stokes N'76
Lincoln, Neb.
7/18/2022

Meredith Moss BS'77
Fort White, Fla.
4/28/2022

Ronald Podojil BS'77
San Antonio, Texas
8/28/2022

Michael Kihne M'78, Diagnostic Radiology '82
Sioux Falls, S.D.
2/11/2022

Barry Munyon M'78, Internal Medicine '82
Omaha, Neb.
4/10/2022

Dean Wampler M'78
Omaha, Neb.
8/3/2022

Philip Wilsey BS'78
Grand Island, Neb.
9/10/2022

Nancy A. Farris N'80, '86
Omaha, Neb.
3/10/2022

If you know of someone who should be listed here, please email **alumni@unmc.edu** or call 402-559-4385.

DEATHS BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2022

Sandra Biga N'81
Omaha, Neb.
4/20/2022

Joseph Roh M'81, Surgery '86
Leawood, Kan.
7/31/2022

Jeffrey Boldt N'82
Carroll, Iowa
12/12/2022

Geraldine Mitchell N'82
Charlottesville, Va.
1/3/2022

Kathleen Renner N'82
Omaha, Neb.
1/3/2022

Pamela Swanson P'83
Grand Island, Neb.
6/1/2022

Juanita A. Lovercheck N'85
Plattsmouth, Neb.
11/1/2022

Lorraine Dickey M'87
Allentown, Penn.
8/28/2022

Gary Maly P'87
Sioux City, Iowa
6/13/2022

Shari Stonacek N'87
Lincoln, Neb.
9/15/2022

William Malchow PA'88, '02
Hickman, Neb.
8/16/2022

Gale Hamann P'82
Memphis, Tenn.
12/14/2022

Gregory Cochran MT'92
Omaha, Neb.
3/11/2022

Mary Andersen N'93, '02
Norfolk, Neb.
2/3/2022

Joan Hagan N'93
Lincoln, Neb.
3/2/2022

Linda Niles N'93
Omaha, Neb.
5/12/2022

Elaine Swanson N'93
Arapahoe, Neb.
9/26/2022

Michelle Ellermeier N'94, '05
Hazard, Neb.
2/27/2022

Heather Dews M'95
Lincoln, Neb.
1/10/2022

Neil S. Norton GS'95
Omaha, Neb.
11/27/2022

Veronica Fuerst N'97
Hildreth, Neb.
7/24/2022

David Koskey PA'00
Ludington, Mich.
5/31/2022

Jeanne Wilson N'03
Pleasanton, Neb.
6/9/2022

Lynn Blunk N'05
Vail, Iowa
6/21/2022

Scott T. Fegter P'09
Omaha, Neb.
11/2/2022

Joseph Sodoro N'10
Elkhorn, Neb.
6/5/2022

Farida Ebrahim Ph'11
Lincoln, Neb.
7/2022

Delynn Cain N'17
Lincoln, Neb.
2/4/2022

Ryan Houser PA'17
Omaha, Neb.
4/9/2022

Jessica Semin N'15, MPH'17, N'21 *Bellevue, Neb.*, was inducted into the UNMC Interprofessional Academy of Educators in September 2022. In January, she was named inaugural director for global health in the UNMC College of Nursing. She has served as an assistant professor in the college since August 2021. During that time, she has been a member of the interdisciplinary HEARTS (Helping Each Other Adapt and Recover in Times of Sorrow) team, has served as faculty advisor for the Omaha campus Student Nurses Association and been involved in the college's first "for credit" exchange program with the University of Adger.

Drew Smith P'15 *Milburn, Neb.*, is providing pharmacy services at the new South Loup Community Pharmacy in Callaway, Neb. The pharmacy was previously Seven Valleys Health Mart and was privately owned before being purchased by the Callaway District Hospital. Smith was at the pharmacy for the first five years after he graduated, transitioned to full time in the Broken Bow pharmacy and enjoys being back in Callaway.

Kate Grafel PH'16, '18 *Omaha, Neb.*, recently started a new position as director of analytics & reporting for Amwins Rx.

Kelsey Irvine PH'16 *Omaha, Neb.*, and her husband Tyler have a daughter, Violet, 3, and son, Isaac, who was born May 12, 2022. She's the communication specialist at the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health.

Tate Johnson M'16, Rheumatology, '22 *Elkhorn, Neb.*, joined the faculty at UNMC in December 2022. He is an assistant professor in the UNMC Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, and practices at Nebraska Medicine.

Samantha Kaftan PA'17 *Williamstown, Mass.*, joined Southwestern Vermont Medical Center's ExpressCare and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Putnam Physicians in November 2022. She is certified by the National Committee on Certification of Physician Assistants. Most recently, she worked in the emergency department at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H. She also worked as a physician assistant in Hospital Medicine at CHI Health Clinic in Omaha, Neb., and Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Kelsey Birchem D'18 *West Point, Neb.*, joined the Dodge Dental Office in February 2023. She spent the past two years as the chief dental officer of the health center in Columbus, Neb., and prior to that, completed a one-year general practice residency at the VA in Portland, Ore. In her free time, she enjoys being with her husband, Devon, family and friends, and reading and knitting.

Andrew Corbin N'18 *Lincoln, Neb.*, joined Genesis Psychiatric Group in Lincoln in December 2022.

Sean Flor M'19 *Fairbury, Neb.*, joined Jefferson Community Health & Life in October 2022, after finishing his residency with the Lincoln Family Medicine Residency Program. He has training in esophagogastroduodenoscopy and colonoscopy.

Carissa Mangus M'19 *Albion, Neb.*, joined the Boone County Health Center in August 2022 in family medicine.

Caty Ward M'19 *Ord, Neb.*, joined Valley County Health System in August 2022.

2000s

Patricia Pettz N'00 *Minden, Neb.*, received a Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurses in May 2022.

Robert Dyer PT'01, '05 *Cozad, Neb.*, was named chief executive officer of the Cozad Community Health System in May 2022. He has been there since 2002, beginning as a physical therapist and more recently, as executive director of outpatient services. He also has served as the site coordinator of clinical education and a clinical instructor for UNMC PT students for many years. He and his wife, Ann, have three children, Megan, Jason and Brooke. The family stays busy with church and school activities.

"Bob (Wigton) was one of the most intelligent people I've ever met. He had a varied and deep interest in the world. He was a great mentor and teacher, and I'm proud to have been his friend and colleague."

David Olson, MD, UNMC College of Medicine, Class of 1972, on the death of UNMC faculty member, alum and campus historian Robert Wigton, MD

Stephen "Tony" Leonardo PA'02, '11 *Astoria, Ore.*, joined the Columbia Memorial Hospital Urgent Care Clinics in January 2023. Previously, he worked as a physician assistant for Pacific Sleep Program. In addition, he has worked at the Wimahl Family Clinic and Coastal Family Health Center, both in Astoria; the St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, Ore.; and the Oregon Youth Authority in Prineville, Ore. He has been active in the Oregon Army National Guard since 2003 and has more than 31 years of military medical experience.

Shane Schuster P'02 *Pender, Neb.*, was named chief operating officer for the Pender Community Hospital (PCH) in December 2022. He previously served as interim chief executive officer. He worked as a pharmacist for 12 years before joining PCH as The Apothecary Shop pharmacy manager in 2014.

Joshua McConkey M'03 *Apex, N.C.*, has been selected for Commander, 459th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Joint Base Andrews, MD (Air Force District Washington). In May 2022, the Alliance (Neb.) Public Schools Foundation added him to the school's Wall of Fame. →

Michael Bauer M'04 *Sioux Falls, S.D.*, received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from Mid-Plains Community College in North Platte, Neb., in November 2022. He is a surgeon specializing in general surgery and trauma cases and is experienced in robotics.

Allison Cushman-Vokoun M'04, GS'02, Pathology '08 *Omaha, Neb.*, received the UNMC Department of Pathology and Microbiology's James Newland Distinguished Pathology Educator Award in June 2022.

Joshua McConkey advances in rank.

Elizabeth Wellsandt receives tenure.

Justin Sharp M'06, Pediatrics'09 *Sioux Falls, S.D.*, joined Essentia Health-Fargo as a neonatologist in October 2022.

Scott Fisher PA'07, '08 *Benson, N.C.*, was appointed program director for the physician assistant program at the Center for Health Sciences in Albermarle in May 2022.

Mandy Frith PA'07 *Niceville, Fla.*, joined Coastal Skin Surgery & Dermatology in July 2022. With more than 20 years of dermatology experience as a PA, she has extensive training in medical and surgical dermatology. While she see patients with various needs, her primary specialty is skin cancer treatment and prevention.

Marisa Gulizia PT'09 *Alma, Neb.*, recently received a community grant from the American Physical Therapy Association's Nebraska chapter to advance the health and wellness of Harlan County's aging population by developing two geriatric wellness classes that focus on stretching, balance and strength training.

Wendy Reeves M'09 *Scottsbluff, Neb.*, joined Regional West Physicians Clinic-Women's Center in fall 2022.

← **Elizabeth Wellsandt PT'09, GS'20** *Omaha, Neb.*, was promoted to associate professor with tenure. She joined the UNMC Division of Physical Therapy Education faculty in 2016 after completing her PhD in biomechanics and movement science from the University of Delaware.

1990s

Donna Kruger MT'91 *Omaha, Neb.*, retired from the Medical Laboratory Science program in the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions on June 3, 2022, after working there since January 2016.

Douglas Martin M'91 *Dakota Dunes, S.D.*, was installed to lead the nation's largest occupational medicine society in June 2022. He serves as medical director for UnityPoint Health — St. Luke's Occupational Medicine in Sioux City, Iowa. He is certified as a medical review officer, a Federal Aviation Administration senior aviation medical examiner, and a Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration commercial driver medical examiner. He also is an immigration civil surgeon and a Social Security Disability Examiner for Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota. His areas of expertise include musculoskeletal disorders, impairment ratings, return-to-work determinations and causation analysis.

Ruth Fournier N'92 *Camden, Del.*, recenty retired as a nurse consultant after 20 years with Delaware Public Health.

Natalie M. D'Itri N'93 *Arlington, Va.*, launched a podcast, "Careerwise Nurse," in 2022, for nurses and nursing students seeking to launch, grow or thrive in their work and life.

Ronda Larson PA'93 *Gordon, Neb.*, retired in July 2022, after 28 years at Gordon Memorial Hospital and Clinic. In her retirement, she looks forward to doing puzzles, knitting, crocheting and quilting.

Jacqueline Miller MS'93, Orthodontics '98 *Washington, Mo.*, was named Missouri State dental director in August 2022.

Louis Roemhildt N'93, Diagnostic Radiology '03 *Milford, Iowa*, joined Midwest Radiology & Imaging in September 2022. Previously, he practiced at Prestwood Radiology and Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center in South Carolina.

Susan Schwerdtfeger, M'94, '90, Internal Medicine '97 *Omaha, Neb.*, retired from the UNMC Department of Internal Medicine on July 1, 2022, after having been in practice since September 1997.

Ravishankar Kalaga GS'96, Internal Medicine and Cardiology '03 *Dawson, Minn.*, joined Prairie Lakes Healthcare System in August 2022 as an interventional cardiologist.

Scott Knoer P'96 *Plain City, Ohio*, was named the inaugural chief pharmacy & innovation officer for Hims & Hers Health Inc., in December 2022. Previously, he led the APhA and prior to that, was the chief pharmacy officer at the Cleveland Clinic.

James McGraw, III PA'96 *Woodstock, Ga.*, recently earned his doctor of medical science from the University of Lynchburg, Class of 2022. →

Kimberley Mihm MT'96 *Ipswich, S.D.*, recently received the annual Siemens Healthineers "We Grow Loyalty" Customer Services Recognition Award.

Maribeth Conrad N'97, '12, '16 *Alliance, Neb.*, recently joined Regional West Medical Center and sees patients in the psychiatry and behavioral health clinic.

Vilma Rodriguez-Cline M'97, '95 *Columbus, Neb.*, joined Columbus Community Hospital in October 2022 as a new primary care provider for the Lindsay Medical Clinic. She has worked in various health care positions in Kearney, Axtell, Norfolk and Columbus.

Jennifer Sauer M'98 *Lee's Summit, Mo.*, joined the Children's Mercy Kansas City board of directors in summer 2022. She is a pediatrician with Raintree Pediatrics, part of Community Choice Pediatrics — an affiliate of Children's Mercy.

Betsy Becker PT'99, GS'18 *Valley, Neb.*, received the 2022 Mary Ellen Sacksteder Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Advancement of Physical Therapy by the American Physical Therapy Association's Nebraska Chapter. This is the organization's highest honor. →

Mia Hyde PA'99 *Gibbon, Neb.*, joined Platte Valley Medical Clinic in September 2022. She has six children, including a daughter, **Olivia Schultz PA'22**, who joined PVMC in August as a cardiothoracic surgery PA. In her free time, Hyde enjoys being with her family, including her granddaughter, and farming.

James McGraw adds to his credentials.

Nancy Hamilton keeps her dental practice growing.

Betsy Becker wins top accolades from her peers.

1980s

Sue Barnason N'80, '85 *Lincoln, Neb.*, was appointed as the Christine Heide Sorensen Endowed Professor in Nursing in December 2022. A longtime UNMC College of Nursing faculty member in the Lincoln Division, she has served in many leadership roles over the years.

Thomas Nevrivy M'80 *Fort Collins, Colo.*, retired at the end of 2022.

Keith Olsen P'80 *Omaha, Neb.*, was inducted into the newly established UNMC College of Pharmacy Diamond Scholars Club. The club recognizes pharmacy faculty who have achieved 100 or more peer-reviewed publications.

← **Nancy Hamilton D'81** *Excelsior, Minn.*, has practiced at Creekside Dental since 2018. Prior to that, she co-founded Uptown Smile Dental Clinic and grew that practice for 35 years. She also co-founded Cannon Falls Smiles in 2006. Her hobbies include training her dogs, scuba diving, snow skiing, fitness training and golf.

Wayne Mathews BS'81 *Olathe, Kan.*, retired from UNMC in November 2022.

Jon Sanchez M'82 *Lexington, Ky.*, recently retired from private practice.

Rhoda Hahn M'83 *Long Beach, Calif.*, retired at the end of 2022.

Renee Young M'83, Internal Medicine '90 *Omaha, Neb.*, retired from the UNMC College of Medicine on Jan. 3, 2022, after 32 years of service.

Karen Honeycutt MT'84 *Omaha, Neb.*, recently received the Filter Award from the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Nebraska. She is director of the medical laboratory science program and chair of the department of allied health education, research and practice in the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions.

Gayle Knoll D'84 *Shelton, Neb.*, retired from dental practice in 2022 and sold his practice to **Alicia Lyon D'16** and **Alivia Focken D'21**. They took over in late September.

Jeff Dowling M'85 *Tucson, Ariz.*, retired on May 1, 2022, after 33 years with Southern Arizona Anesthesia Services in Tucson.

James Ruskin M'85, Oral Surgery '87 *Omaha, Neb.*, retired from the UNMC Department of Surgery-Oral & Maxillofacial on July 1, 2022, after having practiced there since January 2016.

Valerie Arkoosh M'86 *Glenside, Penn.*, was nominated Secretary of Human Services for Pennsylvania in January 2023. She has served as a county commissioner since she was first appointed to fill a vacancy in January 2015. She won election to a full four-year term in November 2015 and was elected commissioners' chair in November 2016, the first woman to assume this role. She was re-elected in November 2019 and unanimously chosen by her two colleagues to again serve as chair in January 2020. Prior to stepping into public service, she was a practicing physician and professor of clinical anesthesiology and clinical obstetrics and gynecology at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania.

↑ **Ally Dering-Anderson P'86** *Lincoln, Neb.*, received the prestigious Bowl of Hygeia Award during the October 2022 Nebraska Pharmacists Association Meeting. This is the highest honor a pharmacist can receive.

David Cantral M'87, Internal Medicine'94 *Kearney, Neb.*, was awarded Physician of the Year by the Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants for outstanding contributions to and collaborations with PAs and PA students. He serves as courtesy faculty for the PA program at the UNMC campus in Kearney.

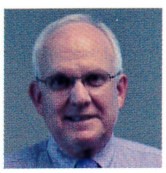
Victoria Whalen MT'87 *Omaha, Neb.*, retired Oct. 31, 2019, and has been spending more time with family and traveling.

Rebecca Rezaei M'88 *Kansas City, Mo.*, works for Centene, a health insurance company in managed care operations for the Kansas Medicaid Program. She teaches and oversees medical students several nights a month at the KUMC Jay-Doc Clinic, is president of the Heartland American Diabetes Association and serves on the UNMC College of Medicine Alumni Council. She is in the MBA program at Rockhurst University with plans to graduate in May 2023. →

Rebecca Rezaei is mentoring med students.

1970s

Janet Gilsdorf M'70 *Ann Arbor, Mich.*, had her new novel, "Fever," published by Beaufort Books. It's the story of a mysterious illness among children in Brazil and a young American physician's search for the cause and cure. →



Jack Fincham tapped as panel expert.

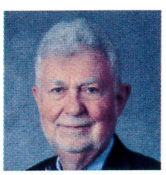
James Anderson D'71 *Aurora, Neb.*, was inducted into the Aurora Public Schools Alumni Hall of Fame for 2022. He opened his own dental practice in Aurora in 1973 and operated it for 40 years.

Kathleen Hanna N'72, '81 *Omaha, Neb.*, retired from the UNMC College of Nursing in May 2022. She joined the college in 2014, held the Carol M. Wilson Endowed Chair in Nursing and served as professor and director of the PhD program.

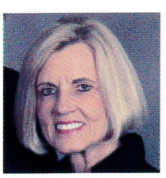
Janet Gilsdorf adds to author credentials.

Robert Keefer GS'72 *Raleigh, N.C.*, is publishing "Alzheimer's and Hearing Aids: Searching for Sanity." The book will be published by an arm of Simon & Schuster.

Jayne McKay Montemer DH'72, D'79 *Rossmoor, Calif.*, continues to work and travel. →



Fredrick McCurdy saluted for leadership.



Jayne McKay Montemer keeps work-play in balance.

Jan Tompkins MT'72, PH'04 *Omaha, Neb.*, retired from UNMC in June 2022, after 50 years that overlapped (mostly) with the 50-year history of the now College of Allied Health Professions at UNMC. That same month, she received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from the College's Alumni Council.

Gerald Luckey M'73 Omaha, Neb., retired after practicing medicine in David City for 46 years.

Stephen Swanson M'73 *Lincoln, Neb.*, retired after 44 years of OB/GYN practice.

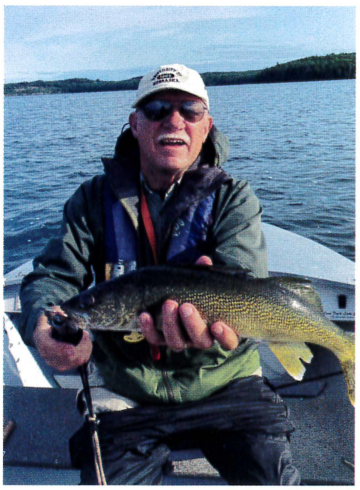
← **Jack Fincham BS'75** *Oracle, Ariz.*, has been appointed to the College of Reviewers of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. He recently served as an expert panel member reviewing the process of grant submissions and reviewal for Canadian researchers seeking support for research endeavors.

James Miller M'75 *Omaha, Neb.*, has retired and moved to Omaha.

Tavi Baker N'76 *Council Bluffs, Iowa*, retired after 44 years with Nebraska Medicine. She spent the first 20 years in the kidney/pancreas transplant program as a nurse coordinator and the past 20 as a nephrology coordinator. She has two children and five grandchildren and is a member of the Nebraska Nurse Honor Guard.

← **Fredrick A McCurdy M'76, GS'76** *Corpus Christi, Texas*, was awarded the Mary Greene-Noble Special Achievement Award by the Texas Pediatric Society on Sept. 10, 2022. He was recognized for his outstanding leadership and service on the TPS Executive Board and as a member of the TPS Committees on Medicaid, CHIP, and the Uninsured, Medical Education, and Children With Disabilities. He was one of the first MD/PhD graduates from UNMC, graduating in 1976 "with distinction."

Michael Sitorius M'77, Family Medicine '80 *Omaha, Neb.*, retired in May 2022, after 42 years at UNMC. He served nearly 30 years as chair of the department of family medicine and oversaw or collaborated on initiatives such as UNMC's Rural Health Opportunities Program and the development of the UNMC College of Medicine's rural training tracks. He also helped develop a curriculum that integrates primary, family medicine and internal medicine to train physicians to better serve rural Nebraska.



↑ **Leslie Spry M'77** *Lincoln, Neb.*, works as a nephrologist at Lincoln Nephrology & Hypertension and is the chief medical officer for the Dialysis Center of Lincoln. He also is on the board of directors of Bryan Health Connect, a Physician Hospital Organization, and blogs for the National Kidney Foundation. He plans to retire July 1, 2023.

Mary Petersen N'78, '84 *Omaha, Neb.*, received the March of Dimes Heroes in Action Award in the education and research category from the Nebraska/Western Iowa chapter in November 2022. She is a longtime clinical instructor in the UNMC College of Nursing.

Doreen Scott N'78, '81 *Little Elm, Texas*, retired after holding a variety of positions, including inpatient and outpatient nursing.

Kyle Meyer PT'79, MS'85 *Omaha, Neb.*, co-authored "Taking the Lead: A Guide for Emerging Leaders in Academic Medical Centers." The book was released in December 2022.

1960s

Patrick Madden M'60 *Mesa, Ariz.*, and his family are well. He has a 3-year-old great-grandson in Nebraska.

Richard Ohme M'64 *Gig Harbor, Wash.*, has been retired for 23 years and just celebrated his 60th wedding anniversary.

Kenneth Hirsch M'65 *Alamo, Calif.*, is the retired chairman of the department of pathology at David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base in California.

John "Bud" Johnson P'65 *Southampton, Pa.*, has a PharmD from Ohio State University (1991) and a residency in infectious disease from the University of Texas (1992).

Morris Brodkey M'67 *Toms River, N.J.*, recently retired.

Russell Harder P'68, '79 *Urbandale, Iowa*, is now retired.

Rick Blatny M'69 *Fairbury, Neb.*, retired in June 2002 from being a family medicine volunteer for UNMC. He had served in this capacity since March 1975.

Kenneth Hirsch is retired in California.

Dan Dowling P'69 *Ottumwa, Iowa*, received his 50-year certificate from the State of Iowa as a licensed pharmacist.

Henry Krous M'69 *San Diego, Calif.*, is a retired professor of pathology and pediatrics, University of California San Diego School of Medicine; retired director of pathology and pathology research, Rady Children's Hospital; and retired director and founder, San Diego SIDS/SUDC Research Project.

Floyd VanEngen P'69 *Adams, Neb.*, retired in June 2022 after 52 years as a registered pharmacist in hospital and retail pharmacy.

Rowen Zetterman M'69 *Omaha, Neb.*, has been serving as interim dean of the UNMC College of Dentistry since Aug. 15, 2022.

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-Insaf Omar, *UNMC College of Medicine, Class of 2026*